

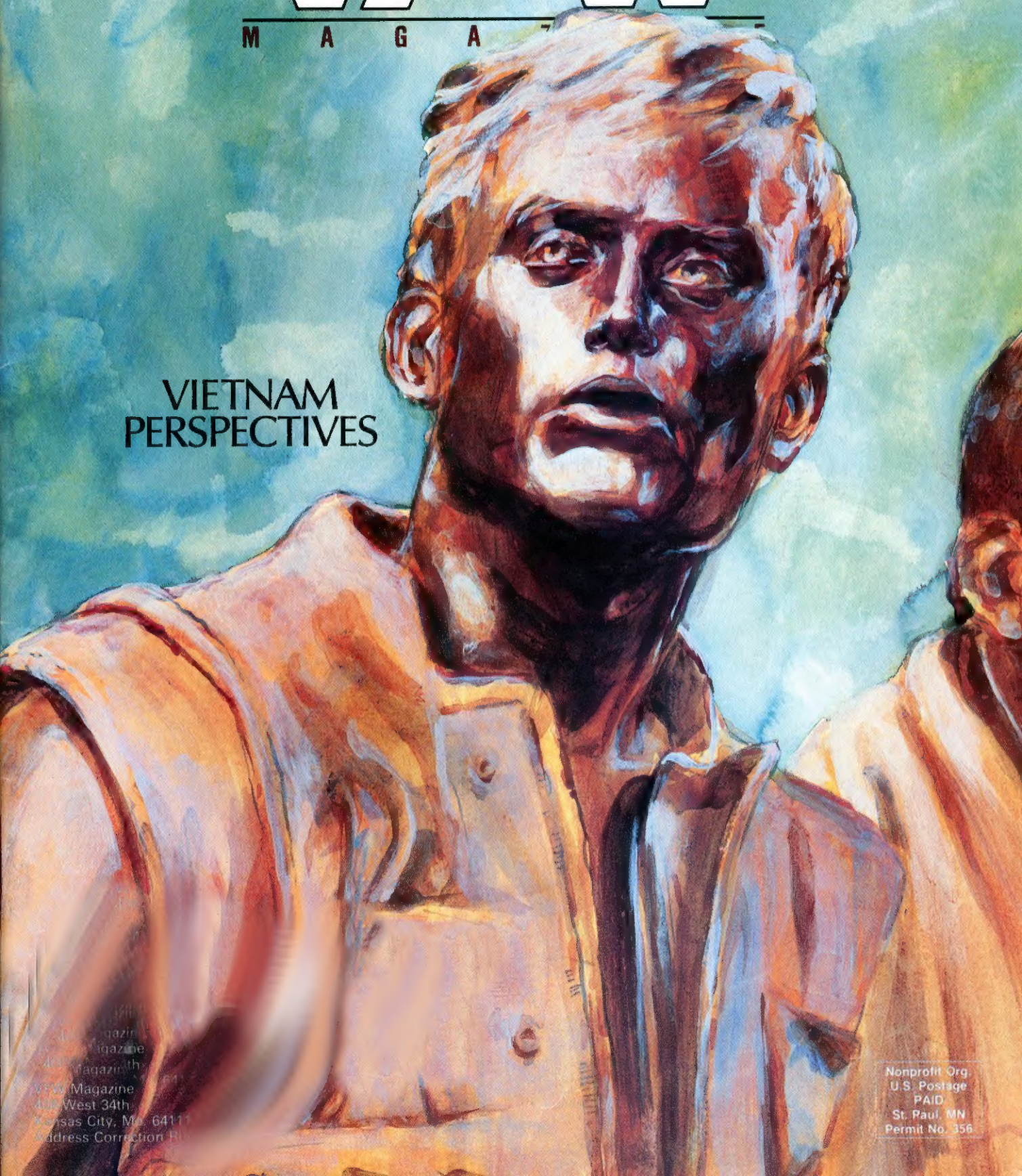
VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

M A G A

JANUARY 1988

VIETNAM PERSPECTIVES



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CONTENTS



Kendall Young's rendering of a detail of one of the statues at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington serves to remind VFW members that 15 years ago this month the U.S. signed the Paris Accords that ended this country's combat role in Vietnam. One article provides an insight into the fighting in Vietnam, and another one relates how a visit to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial freed the writer from "survivor's guilt." In his monthly Command Post column, Commander-in-Chief Earl L. Stock reviews the question of American POW/MIAs in Southeast Asia and reminds the Vietnamese that they agreed to a full accounting of POW/MIAs when the Americans promised to leave.

VIETNAM PERSPECTIVES

Home at Last by John Stahlman. "I left Vietnam in 1966," this Vietnam veteran begins his article. "The final leg of my trip home 19 years later. Thank God I am home at last." This "last leg" was a visit to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, and a host of memories swept him along until "at last I was free from the chains of survivor's guilt."

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Paper Walk by Lou Beck. New to his Marine unit in Vietnam, this Navy corpsman learned what was meant by "paper walk" when he went out on his first patrol. His account ends on a happy note: no casualties. Before setting out, the lieutenant said, "You would think they would know 'the walk' by now." Read on, and you will know what the "walk" was, too.

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When Army Beat Navy Down Under by Dan B. McCarthy. The game may have been a far cry from the Super Bowl that gives sports fans something to think about each January, but Australians got what probably was their first exposure to American-style football when soldiers and sailors squared off during WWII.

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An Afghan Foray by Mark R. Brown. The photojournalist made his way into Afghanistan with a team of Mujahadeen freedom fighters in a rainy, stormy night and inky darkness. Soviet armor was on the move, but most terrifying was the barrage of Katyusha rockets. Brown, a Vietnam Era veteran, was relieved to get back into Pakistan, for the Russians had vowed to kill journalists captured in Afghanistan.

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Listen Up, Vietnam



By Commander-in-Chief
Earl L. Stock, Jr.

Fifteen years ago come Jan. 27, North Vietnam promised a full accounting of all Americans missing in action and the return of all Americans held prisoner by the Communist regime.

In return, the United States agreed to end its combat role in Vietnam—and announced an end to the military draft that would be needed no longer.

The accords concluded the long drawn out negotiations that began five years earlier amid quibbling over the shape of the table. Officially, the pact was called the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Vietnam, and in reality it was a prelude to the next phase of the war that finally ended with South Vietnam's defeat two years later.

Long before this agreement was signed, the VFW was the major organization demanding that the Vietnamese Communists treat the prisoners humanely in accordance with the Geneva Convention they signed in 1949.

The VFW never once has deviated from its stand taken by a long succession of National Convention resolutions demanding that the Vietnamese return any American prisoners and account for all the missing in action.

Most recently, at the 88th National Convention, the delegates reaffirmed these positions and urged the wearing of the red ribbon to call attention to this unresolved issue, the display by Posts of the POW/MIA flag and attaching the POW/MIA streamer to the VFW flag.

This is all part of the VFW's continuing role in leading the way in mobilizing American public opinion on behalf of the prisoners and missing and creating pressure on the Vietnamese Communists to keep their part of the bargain they made 15 years ago.

In recent years, the Vietnamese have responded with a trickle of remains of American MIAs, but no prisoners have been returned, except for the 590 who had been freed by April 1, 1973, although many live sightings have been reported.

As Kenneth Steadman, the VFW Foreign Affairs and National Security Director, has reported, the economic condition of Vietnam has worsened in recent months. In the past year or so, the Vietnamese Communist Party has installed as leaders persons who appear to be

that ten reports of U.S. MIAs are being pursued. They also said remains had been found and a tentative identification had been made. Three sets of remains were received and sent to the Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii in September.

Another hopeful note was sounded recently when Premier Heng Samrin, of Kampuchea, said his regime has remains of a few American MIAs and would release them if they are requested. The U.S. lists 82 as missing in Kampuchea, but no response to the U.S. request relayed by the Vietnamese had been received by late last fall. Late in November, the Laotians agreed to renew crash site excavations after the monsoon season.

As President Reagan's emissary to Vietnam, retired Army Gen. John W.



Commander-in-Chief Earl L. Stock discusses the POW/MIA question with retired Army Gen. John W. Vessey, Jr., President Reagan's emissary who returned recently from talks with the Vietnamese.

economic reformers, but they have failed to get party approval of needed changes.

But other Asian nations sent signals to the Vietnamese that if they want new trade links, they should resolve outstanding issues with the U.S. This may have prompted the Vietnamese to speed up progress on POW/MIAs and withdraw from Kampuchea (Cambodia).

Recently, the Vietnamese concluded four days of technical talks with U.S. negotiators and indicated

Vessey appeared before a House Foreign Affairs Committee subcommittee on Asian and Pacific affairs to assure its members that the prisoner question was of top priority in his talks with the Vietnamese.

He said they repeated their denial that they held any Americans, but he added that he insisted that many questions must be answered before the U.S. will accept their disclaimers.

In discussing discrepancy cases—those of Americans who evidence

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showed survived air crashes or were captured and have not been returned — Vessey told the subcommittee he did not give the Vietnamese live sighting information. Instead he provided them with 224 narrative summaries, 70 of them about those the U.S. believes survived crashes or capture but have not been heard

from since 1973. Sixty of the 70 were listed as prisoners during Operation Homecoming 15 years ago.

All of us in the VFW join with the families of POW/MIAs in praying for their return or for an accounting of them, and we pledge to keep up the pressure until this tragic situation is finally resolved.

Disabled Military Retirees

On another subject, the VFW is gratified that its work on behalf of military retirees has been recognized by a member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, Rep. Michael Bilirakis. He writes:

"I am pleased that all your efforts to date on behalf of H.R. 303, which would eliminate the offset between military retirement and VA disability, have been successful in gaining 175 cosponsors.

"The elimination of this inequitable treatment of disabled retired veterans is so compelling that I am confident that we may well obtain a majority of the House of Representatives as cosponsors."

Because of a 19th century law, a large number of the nation's retired military veterans are being deprived of a portion of their retirement pay. They are the only group of retirees subject to forfeiture or offset of their retired pay. Civil Service or private sector retirees collect the full amount of retirement annuity and disability compensation without a reduction in either.

Because of a 19th century law, a large number of the nation's retired military veterans are being deprived of a portion of their retirement pay.

In this day and age, when early retirement and retirement plans have become commonplace, the ban on receiving VA compensation and military retired pay is a long outdated inequity. Further, it must be remembered that VA compensation is awarded to veterans for disabilities incurred in service to this nation.

Disabled military retirees are being told that loss of earning power and the pain and suffering they endured in defending this country are not valued by the very society that benefited from their service.

The VFW will not allow this malignant and discriminatory treatment to continue. ■

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Agent Orange-Radiation Issue

It is this combat veteran's opinion that the Agent Orange issue should be second only to that of the POW/MIAs and should be given more attention by educating the public in your communities.

Because of the attention the Vietnam veterans gave to the Agent Orange controversy some years ago, the ionized radiation-Agent Orange Bill was signed into law by President Reagan in 1984 and the House and Senate mandated the VA to make and publish regulations on dioxin and radiation in 1985.

The VA is still dragging its feet on granting service connection and entitlements for any Agent Orange-related illnesses and has been caught shredding evidence of veterans who filed claims. The VA is trying to use the same tactics on Vietnam veterans

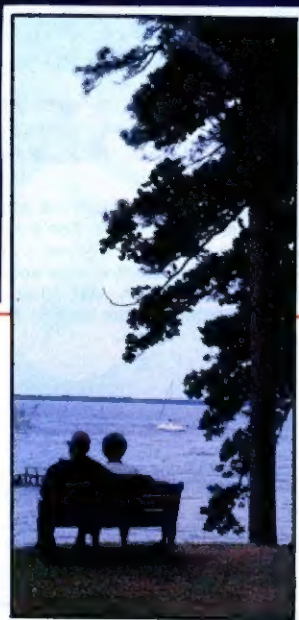
that it employed on WWII veterans exposed to ionized radiation during the occupation of Japan and atomic testing. Result? Wait 40 years when most of the veterans are dead or have given up.

We cannot keep this issue on the back burner or let it fade away. It affects all veterans and future defenders of our nation. Too many veterans have died and too many veterans are still suffering from exposure to ionized radiation or Agent Orange. Service Officers, make sure this information is made available to members who believe they are suffering adverse health effects. It is the responsibility of all veterans to support the dioxin-radiation bill. See to it the VA lives up to its end. — *Ron Quesada, District 1 Surgeon, Florida Department, P.O. Box 629, Ponce DeLeon, Fla. 32455.*

Still Ready

After reading Cliff Gritter's Mail Call letter (November, 1987), I feel compelled to add my comments. I served seven years in Vietnam in various capacities with the U.S. Navy. During my 20 combat campaigns, I felt it was my duty to my country and to future veterans to reduce the number of the enemy's seasoned combat troops. I was determined to make my dent in worldwide Communist aggression. I only hope that by my actions the United States and the rest of the world will be a little safer for the next generation. Not having been wounded in combat, I do not feel that I have fully paid my dues or discharged my obligation to the United States of America or to my fallen comrades. I will continue to serve my country in

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To insure the national security through maximum military strength
To speed the rehabilitation of the nation's disabled and needy veterans
To assist the widows and orphans and the dependents of disabled and needy veterans
To promote Americanism through education in patriotism and constructive service to the communities in which we live

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MEMBER AUDIT BUREAU
OF CIRCULATION

(ISSN 0161-8598)

MAIL CALL

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Draft Registration

Each day 5,000 young men come forward to register with Selective Service. This represents a compliance rate of 98.8% nationwide for those males born between 1962-1969 who are considered draft eligible in a national emergency. What a tribute to the 14 million men who have realized that freedom is not free and has certain obligations.

Once a young man turns 26, he is no longer eligible to register. By failing to register before turning 26, a man will have permanently forfeited his right to certain benefits including federal student aid, job training and federal employment. Many states require registration for entrance to a state-supported college or university, state student aid and state employment.

Many of today's 25-year-olds who still have not registered with Selective Service may be unaware of this requirement or do not understand the importance of their obligation to register. Some may even have served in the military but failed to register either before entering the Armed Forces or after leaving active duty. A young man is eligible to register up until his 26th birthday. Once he has passed this milestone, he has forfeited forever his right to register. Registration is quite simple and takes less than five minutes at any U.S. Post Office. — Robert N. Jameson, Jr., 1150 Watauga Street, Kingsport, Tenn. 37660.

Combat Tanker Badge?

There are the Combat Infantryman Badge and the Combat Medic Badge. Why isn't there a badge for combat tankers? Almost every time the combat team was on the field of battle, it was a combination of infantryman and tanker. — Norbert J. Scholl, 416 Overbrook Blvd., Pittsburgh, Pa. 15210.

(Amen. But what about tank destroyer vets, combat engineers and field artillerymen?)

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any capacity as long as I have the means to do so. I feel it is a privilege to serve this great country in the armed service. — David Vann, P.O. Box 36062, Philadelphia, Pa. 19112.

More PTSD Comment

Dean Allen's Superman image (Mail Call, November) simply was not possible for the very many Vietnam veterans who saw their buddies being put into body bags. However, some were able to put the war behind them, while others simply blocked the memory of the war. It would be interesting to see Super Patriots like Mr. Allen inter-reacting with the many users of the various Vet Centers in this nation. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder is a real and valid syndrome which by his very letter, Mr. Allen is unable to understand! For this, I am truly sorry since it clearly demonstrates a total lack of sensitivity to others. The Vet Center program has done wonders for the many Vietnam veterans they have served. Letters such as his should serve as a reminder that as a society we have not been successful in combatting ignorance. — Wendall Stivers, 205 West Sixth Ave., Monmouth, Ill. 61462.

A Suggestion

After reading the VFW magazine, why not leave it in the waiting rooms of doctors and dentists and barber and beauty shops. You may know of other good places. But by all means, you must receive permission from these establishments to leave them. Do you realize that we could increase our readership at least 50 fold? What a wonderful service to our country.

Can you imagine what a difference at the polls this might make, if the populace were better informed? And the Congressmen and other politicians would begin to listen to us instead of laughing at us. Our magazines are going to these places. Won't you take yours, too? — James T. Bross, Cdr., Post 7628, Rt. 6, PO Box 90, Ozark, Mo. 65721.



THE TOY THAT'S MAKING A LASTING IMPRESSION ON THOUSANDS OF AFGHAN CHILDREN.

It's a bomb loaded with just enough explosive to mutilate. Its young victims become crippled reminders of the high cost of resistance.

Over the last seven years, the Soviet reign of terror has killed nearly a million civilians and driven five million out of the country. Those who refuse to flee need your help desperately.

Since 1980 the Afghanistan Relief Committee has been sending medical aid, food and support for schools to villagers inside Afghanistan. But we can't do it alone. Please don't turn the page until you've opened your heart.

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MAIL CALL

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Short Time Members

Members of Post 6291, Murray, Ky., would like to add their congratulations to Comrade Minogue for 69 years of continuous membership in Paramus, N.J., Post 6699. Also to Post 130, Westwood, N.J., for PC Harold Bentley and PC Mort Myers for their long dedication to the VFW (Mail Call, October). We are a new kid on the block, mustered in on April 27, 1987. We have five generations of members: Mexican Border, WWI, Jake Mason, 94 plus, and B.H. Cornett of WWI, Russia, Siberia and others from WWII, Korea and Vietnam. We are equally proud of our Post. And I am especially proud to be its first Post Commander. We hope our Post can do as well as the others. — *Roger Emmert, P.O. Box 743, Murray, Ky. 42071.*

Gas Victims

Will any one of the 25 who tested World War I mustard gas on our bodies at Camp Sibert, Ala., from December, 1943 to February, 1944, please contact me? The gas had been stored since World War I in several Army depots. It was tested at Camp Sibert for its potency. — *Stephen F. Dymowski, 1101 Second Ave., North, Grand Forks, N.D. 58201.*

Boycott Nabisco, He Says

One incident during the Vietnam War I can never forget was Jane Fonda's infamous visit to Hanoi. Had we been formally in a state of war, such an act would have been considered treason and punishable by death.

Now Nabisco Brands, Inc., as a promotion on its boxes of Shredded Wheat and bran cereal, is offering one of Jane Fonda's fitness video tapes. Either Nabisco is insensitive to what happened during the Vietnam War or shares Fonda's beliefs. I have written a letter to Nabisco and now intend to boycott all of its products, just as I do Fonda's movies on TV or in theaters. Nor have I purchased her fitness tapes. — *Frank C. Tirimacco, 6111 Dudman Ave., Garden Grove, Calif. 92645.*

Nabisco Dumps Fonda

This letter is Nabisco's response to a letter sent by another comrade:

"In response to your recent inquiry, please be advised that the Nabisco Shredded Wheat sales promotion involving the offer of an exercise video-cassette featuring the actress, Jane Fonda, has been cancelled and will not be renewed. There will be no additional production of packages mentioning the promotion or any advertising of the promotion. Thank you for contacting us. Your views and interest in Nabisco Brands are greatly appreciated." Writer was Melvin J. Grayson, Nabisco vice president for communications.

Who Was That Man?

During the Korean War, my 1st Cavalry Division 155 Field Artillery unit was on the bank of the Han River. An American plane came over and fired on us, although the panels were out. One soldier tried to outrun the 40mm cannon the plane was firing. All we could do was sit there — in broad daylight. The soldier never got a scratch, and for all these years, I have wondered who he was. Does anyone know? — *Raymond Booth, 111 20th St., Apt. 214, Rock Island, Ill. 61210.*

Wants Uniforms

I am assembling a collection of field uniforms from the Vietnam War for preservation and display. Uniforms of any rank, unit, or branch would be greatly appreciated. Biographical or service data would be welcomed. I am willing to purchase items, but I ask that prices be reasonable. I will be happy to reimburse postage costs for anyone donating items. — *Gilbert W. Burket, 94-447 Kiilani St., Mililani, Hawaii 96789.*

Letters should be of no more than 100 words and deal with only one subject. Editing for space, clarity and good taste may be necessary. Published letters include the sender's name and address to enable readers to reply directly. Anonymous mail is not considered for publication. Space limitations preclude use of all the letters received.

WASHINGTON WIRE

LEGISLATIVE

House Passes Bill to Make VA Cabinet Post:

By a 399-17 vote the House of Representatives has passed H.R. 3471 that would elevate the Veterans Administration to the status of a Cabinet department. This action followed President Reagan's announcement on Nov. 10 that the bill had his support, action that came on the heels of a meeting with Commander-in-Chief Earl L. Stock. In addition, the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee has scheduled a hearing on the Senate's companion bill S. 533, introduced by Strom Thurmond, before the first session of the 100th Congress adjourns. The VFW is encouraging all U.S. Senators to support the Senate bill.

Korean War Memorial: Recently legislation, H.J. Res. 405, was introduced by Rep. James Florio (N.J.) that would authorize construction on the Mall in Washington of a Korean War Memorial.

If the Florio resolution, with more than 86 cosponsors, is adopted by Congress, the commission overseeing the memorial can begin to accept design proposals. The monument would be erected at Constitution Avenue and 17th Street, near the Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

More than 5.7 million Americans served the country during the Korean War. Approximately 55,000 Americans died in Korea between 1950 and 1953, another 103,000 were wounded and 8,200 were listed as missing in action. Rep. Florio summed it up: "I look forward to a day not too far in the future when people from all over America will be able to stand before this long overdue tribute to the men and women who fought in Korea." Florio added, "Like Vietnam, this was an undeclared war, but that fact is mere historical trivia that in no way lessened the sacrifices of our forces there."

A bill authorizing the Korean War Memorial was passed and signed into law in October, 1986. The legislation provided for a 12-member advisory board charged with finding a site, choosing a design and raising private funds for the monument. Further legislative and administrative action is required before the monument becomes a reality. Thus Rep. Florio's bill.

Interior Secretary Donald Hodel has signed a waiver that would allow the memorial to be erected on the Mall. Under federal law, however, a joint Congressional resolution must be passed within 150 days for the waiver to be granted.

Rep. Florio is confident that Congress will act before the April, 1988, deadline. Korean veterans are owed this memorial, and it should occupy a special place in the nation's capital. The VFW encourages full support for the long overdue Korean Memorial.

VA Home Loan Guaranty Program Attacked:

Recently, the President's Committee on Privatization held a hearing on the Veterans Administration's Home Loan Guaranty program. This committee, patterned after the Grace Commission, is tasked with finding means to reduce the deficit, such as transferring various government programs to the private sector. This committee would mandate selling off VA loans to private industry.

At that hearing, the VFW declared it is its strongest conviction that the VA home loan program is first and foremost a veterans' entitlement program. There should be absolutely no expectation that it always operates at a profit or, for that matter, breaks even. That is simply not in the nature or tenor of entitlement programs.

The VA Home Loan Guaranty program is a tremendous asset to veterans and the nation as a whole. It has assisted more than 1.2 million veterans in purchasing homes. Along with lending crucial support to this nation's housing industry, it has increased the tax base of communities across the country by more than \$275 billion. What is most important, it plays an essential part in fulfilling the nation's commitment of rewarding veterans for their service by enabling them to achieve the American dream of homeownership. It was pointed out that this is accomplished through the operation of a government program for which no private sector counterpart exists. This, of course, is how it should be. The private sector did not call on military veterans to risk their lives to protect the nation. It was the federal government. Therefore, it is the federal government's responsibility and moral duty to provide and maintain veterans' entitlement programs.

As for its necessity, there can also be no doubt. In the VFW's view, the VA Home Loan Guaranty is demonstrably one of the most successful and beneficial VA programs available to veterans. More than 1.2 million loans have been approved to date. This attests to its great popularity and viability. Furthermore, over 70% of all VA-guaranteed home loans are made without a downpayment. This is not generally possible with conventional loans. Many veterans choose this type of financing precisely for this benefit. It would not be available otherwise. Clearly, a vast number of veterans would not be in their own homes today if it were not for the VA home loan program.

The VFW attacked the committee's recommendation to sell off the VA's entire vendee loan portfolio by clearly exposing this plan as a quick-fix solution. It would have disastrous consequences for the whole VA loan program. The VFW also voiced its strong opposition to increasing the user fee for a VA-

WASHINGTON WIRE

guaranteed home loan and repealing the VA Administrator's authority to establish the VA home loan interest rate.

In closing, the VFW stated to the committee: "Our strongest and most fundamental objection to this proposal is its manifest disdain for a program which provides a key service to veterans to which they are entitled by virtue of their service to the nation. As has already been stated, entitlement programs very seldom make money. The VA home loan program for many years was an exception to this rule.

"We believe that once an economic recovery has been achieved this will be true again. But even if this does not happen, even if appropriations are required through the years, we maintain that this is but a small recompense for the freedom we now all enjoy thanks to the military veterans of yesterday, today and tomorrow.

"Veterans have earned their entitlements, and for their sake and the sake of the nation these programs must be maintained."

SERVICE

VFW Acts on Agent Orange: The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) have struck out in their efforts to establish a direct correlation between exposure to dioxins in Agent Orange and physical problems experienced later by some veterans and their offspring.

Thus, back to square one in this effort to establish a correlation between dioxin exposure and subsequent health problems. A substantial expenditure of federal funds, time and energy has, for all practical purposes, come up with a zero.

Naturally, this is unacceptable to the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The VFW believes the study cannot just stop here, and it is vitally important that this issue be brought to a satisfactory conclusion. Those who served in Vietnam and continue to suffer from conditions that are still of unknown cause cannot now be abandoned just because medical technology is unable to determine existence of a cause and effect relationship with exposure to dioxin. Rather than let the matter drop, the VFW has suggested an interim plan to continue research.

Since approximately 250,000 Vietnam veterans concerned about their exposure to Agent Orange have come forward and made their presence known to the Veterans Administration, the VFW feels this group merits further study. Therefore, it has suggested to the VA that these men and women now carried on the rolls of the VA Agent Orange Registry should have their dioxin levels evaluated. In a letter from Executive Director Cooper T. Holt, of the VFW Washington Office, to VA Administrator Thomas K. Turn-

age, the VFW has called for VA testing. It was suggested that veterans found to have high dioxin levels in their blood serum become part of an ongoing study to determine whether there are shared medical conditions among them. At the very least this would keep the issue open and viable and would constitute a legitimate research project.

Veterans on the Agent Orange Registry, who voluntarily submit to the testing and whose blood serum dioxin levels are deemed low, would remain on the registry in the event that future scientific breakthroughs might establish a morbid connection.

The VFW wants its members and veterans everywhere to know that even though Agent Orange studies to date have proved largely equivocal, the organization does not intend to let the matter drop.

SECURITY

Post-INF Treaty Assessment: Soviet party Chief Mikhail S. Gorbachev's arrival in Washington for the December summit opened the floodgates of speculation. His purpose was to sign a treaty eliminating intermediate nuclear missiles from Europe.

Many optimists view the INF treaty as forecasting a relaxation of international tension, a slowdown of the nuclear arms race and a return to East-West detente. Accuracy of these forecasts will depend less on the INF treaty than on the reaction of Eastern and Western Europe, the United States and the ruling elite of the Soviet Union to the agreement and its effects.

Soviet approach to arms control has been to use it as a political instrument to obtain military advantages over the West rather than to stabilize East-West relations.

Until Gorbachev's surprise announcement last February of his willingness to negotiate the elimination of all intermediate range nuclear missiles, Soviet arms control proposals were self-centered. They seemed designed to widen differences between Moscow and the West by limiting NATO/U.S. forces, arousing public concern and aggravating tensions among NATO members.

These certainly seemed to be the Soviets' goals when they walked out of the INF negotiations in 1982. Thus it came as a great surprise to find Gorbachev suddenly supporting a Western proposal that had caused Soviet negotiators to walk out five years earlier.

The West still finds it difficult to account for this radical change in Soviet attitudes. Are Gorbachev and the party elite so radically different from Andropov and Chernenko? Have Soviet foreign policy goals really changed or is this only a change in Soviet tactics?

National Home Elects 2 to Board

Two men, one representing the 9th District and one representing the 12th, have been elected as new National Home trustees and were installed during the National Home's annual meeting of Life Members at Eaton Rapids, Mich.



Three VFW members, who assumed new positions on the National Home Board of Trustees during ceremonies at the Annual Meeting on Oct. 24, include (from left) D.E. (Sam) Sears, Ron Tyler, and, extreme right, John O'Neill. National Home Executive Director Theodore Wilson welcomed Tyler as the Board's new president, and Sears and O'Neill as newly-elected Trustees. (National Home staff photo)

Idaho's D.E. (Sam) Sears edged out Oregon's Harold Damm for the trustee position left by Mary Souder's retirement from the National Home Board of Trustees, while John O'Neill, of Minnesota, outpaced Dorothy Norgard for the vacant 9th District slot. O'Neill succeeded Past Commander-in-Chief and fellow Minnesotan Bob Hansen, who retired from the board after serving his six-year term.

Sears is a Korean War veteran and a Life Member of Post 889, Coeur d'Alene, where he is a Past Commander. He was also a District 1 Commander in 1975-76, an All-American Department Commander two years later and served two years on the National Council of Administration, representing Idaho, Washington and Montana in 1982-84. Sears was appointed by Idaho's governor to the Idaho Veterans Affairs Commission, which oversees two veterans' homes and the State Veterans Service Office, in 1985 and was vice chairman of the Voice of Democracy Committee.

O'Neill is a St. Paul resident who first joined Post 1139 in 1946 after

serving with the Marines throughout the Pacific and in China. He was later recalled to duty during the Korean War.

He retired as Minnesota's Adjutant Quartermaster in 1986 after 15 years of service and has been the editor of the state's monthly newspaper, *Gopher Overseas*, since 1968. He has been involved in numerous civic and community organizations, including the Boy Scouts, American Legion and the Marine Corps League. He is currently a member of Post 6845. O'Neill is married with three children and has served on the National Buddy Poppy Committee, National Security and Foreign Affairs Committee of the VFW and is a registered lobbyist on veterans issues at his state capital.

Both new trustees were sworn in last month at the annual meeting of the National Home Life Members, who voted the pair into office. Ronald G. Tyler was inaugurated as Board of Trustees president during the same meeting.

O'Neill represents VFW and Ladies Auxiliary members from Minnesota, Nebraska and North and South Dakota. Sears represents Idaho, California, Oregon, Washington, Hawaii, Nevada and the Panama Canal.



Harley Glosson and Dean Wrick, both of Charleston, Ill., Post 1592, display part of nearly \$6,000 worth of new clothes they delivered to National Home children during the recent Illinois Day celebrations. The donation was originally made by Garry C. Thompson, of St. Peters, Mo., and the duo delivered the items for him.

New Home Video Available Soon

Production is nearly complete of VFW National Home's new documentary. The 20-minute VHS video details the Home's programs, services and history. It replaces the 16mm film "Children of America," which was produced in the mid-1970s. Since then, many of the programs have changed or expanded.

The new Home video is an innovative way to promote the Home, at meetings and public gatherings as well as showing another benefit of VFW membership.

To order, send check or money order for \$25 to VFW National Home, 3573 Waverly Rd., Eaton Rapids, MI 48827. Make sure to include your name and return address.



Henry Smith, one of the oldest veterans in Illinois, is interviewed during production of the new National Home video.

No Cancer, AO Link, Study Says

A VA study of soft-tissue sarcomas among men of draft age during the Vietnam War shows that, in general, veterans who served in Vietnam did not have an increased risk of this type of cancer compared to those men who had never been to Vietnam, the VA reports.

[For VFW reaction, see Washington Wire, Service.]

The study, published in the October, 1987, issue of the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, was conducted in collaboration with the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP).

The case-control study compared individuals with soft-tissue sarcomas and those without soft-tissue sarcomas with respect to their Vietnam service, potential Agent Orange exposure and other possible risk factors, such as radiation therapy, exposure to specific chemicals, occupational exposure to phenoxy herbicides and certain medical conditions, the VA says.

The cases were drawn from the AFIP soft-tissue tumor files. Between one-fourth and one-third of all soft-tissue sarcoma cases in the United States are sent to AFIP for review. The selection for the study was limited to men diagnosed at AFIP as having soft-tissue sarcoma between Jan. 1, 1975, and Dec. 31, 1980, and who were born between 1940 and 1955.

The control group, which duplicated such case study factors as residency and socio-economic status, was drawn from the pathology records of hospitals and clinics that send reports to AFIP.

Interviews were conducted for 217 of 279 cases and 599 of 808 controls with study subjects or next-of-kin.

Military and Vietnam service for all study subjects was documented by reviewing existing military personnel records stored at various sites.

An effort also was made to determine whether the odds of developing soft-tissue sarcoma increased with a greater probability of exposure to Agent Orange, the VA says. To deter-

mine the likelihood of Agent Orange exposure, the service in the Army or Marine Corps, occupation in the military, location of the veteran's unit in Vietnam or a combination of these factors were reviewed.

Forty-five of 217 soft-tissue sarcoma cases and 145 of 599 controls had military service in Vietnam, and no statistically significant association between soft-tissue sarcomas and Vietnam service was found, the VA says.

Although the assumption is that ground troops in Vietnam as a group had a greater opportunity for exposure to Agent Orange, the study showed that this group actually had a lower risk of soft-tissue sarcomas than men who had never been in Vietnam, the VA continues.

Among ground troops, however, certain groups who had insignificantly higher degrees of likelihood of Agent Orange exposure did experience a somewhat greater risk of soft-tissue sarcoma, according to the VA report. This possibly increased risk within the group of ground troops was found to be statistically insignificant.

No statistically significant association was found between soft-tissue sarcomas and other study variables, such as viral diseases, skin problems, other types of cancer, smoking, alcohol use and occupations in which exposure to radiation or to certain chemicals occurred, the VA adds.

The study will be reviewed at a future meeting of the Veterans' Advisory Committee on Environmental Hazards, a panel of non-VA medical and scientific experts who advise the Agency on the results of studies dealing with the health effects of dioxin exposure.

Monuments Pushed

Two monuments the VFW is supporting financially and morally through resolutions passed at several National Conventions are receiving extra attention these days.

Commander-in-Chief Earl L. Stock

has emphasized the continuation of fundraising for the Korean War Memorial in a letter to all echelons of the organization.

"In this campaign, our organization will fulfill its efforts to gain recognition for the veterans many consider America's forgotten veterans," he wrote. "Our efforts will insure this memorial becomes a reality and takes its rightful place alongside other memorials to those who have served our nation in time of need."

Stock reminded VFW members that, although the organization presented a \$200,000 check at the 88th National Convention to the American Battle Monuments Commission, the federal agency responsible for the proposed memorial's erection, and the Hyundai Motor America Co. contributed \$1 million on Veterans Day, 1986, the total cost will be \$6 million. The federal government will furnish \$1 million, but the balance will have to come from private donations, including those from veterans' organizations.

Stock reminded that contributions may be sent to the VFW National Headquarters, Broadway and 34th St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111. Checks should be made payable to the VFW and noted Korean Memorial Fund.

President Reagan last September named seven VFW members to the 12-member advisory board of Korean War veterans that will recommend a site and design for the memorial.

The seven are retired Army Gen. Richard Stilwell, retired Marine Gen. Raymond Davis, retired Air Force Col. Fred Cherry, John Curcio, a Navy veteran; Thomas Dehne, a DAV executive; retired Army Col. Conrad Hausman and James McKevitt, an Air Force veteran.

Meanwhile, the campaign for the erection of the women's monument at the Vietnam War Veterans Memorial received a setback when the Fine Arts Commission refused to approve the design and plans for the women's monument.

continued on page 18

So now the monument's promoters are seeking help to prevail on the commission to reverse its October decision and give the project its okay.

Persons to write, a spokesman for the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project says, are J. Carter Brown, Director, National Gallery of Art, 6th St. and Constitution Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20565, and Charles Atherton, Secretary, Fine Arts Commission, 708 Jackson Place NW, Washington, D.C. 20006.

According to a statement issued by the project, the commission turned down the petition because the memorial already has been completed; the Vietnam War "healing" process is over; addition of another statue would create a demand for more of them; and statues of the men represent the women's contributions as well.



Chuck Norris

Chuck Norris Heads VA's Salute

Actor, writer, lecturer and karate expert Chuck Norris will serve as chairman of the VA's 1988 National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans.

In announcing the appointment, VA Administrator Thomas K. Turnage said, "We are delighted Chuck has agreed to help the VA pay special tribute to our hospitalized veterans."

The National Salute program, beginning the week of Feb. 8, 1988, increases community awareness of hospitalized veterans and encourages community leaders and celebrities to visit VA medical centers.

Norris, a U.S. Air Force veteran who served a tour of duty in Korea, said, "This program enables all of us to salute our veterans and recognize their dedication and sacrifices."

Mrs. Nancy Reagan is serving as honorary patron of the annual observance.

VFW Posts and Auxiliaries interested in showing their appreciation for hospitalized veterans can call or visit the nearest VA medical facility.

Ellis Island Wall of Honor

The American Immigrant Wall of Honor, a permanent exhibit of individual or family names, is being planned at Ellis Island in New York Harbor.

The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation was established in 1982 when President Reagan asked Lee Iacocca to raise private funds for the restoration of the Statue of Liberty, but, with the completion of the statue's renovation in 1986, the foundation's full attention now is being directed to Ellis Island.

Among the highlights of Ellis Island, where some 12 million immigrants arrived in the U.S. between 1892 and its closing in 1954, will be the museum with its American Immigrant Wall of Honor.

The foundation is seeking financial donors to the wall to qualify them to place a name of their choice on the American Wall of Honor as a permanent tribute either to themselves or their ancestors.

Further information may be obtained from Norman Solomon or Harriet Katz, Fundraising Department, Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, 52 Vanderbilt Ave., New York, N.Y. 10017.

November Cover

Several comrades have asked why the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal did not appear on the November cover, only the ribbon. The reason is that neither it nor the American Campaign Medal was readily available in regulation size. The European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal was included to represent the three WWII campaign medals. Separate ribbons for all three were reproduced, however. The American Campaign Medal is authorized for VFW membership eligibility if the veteran served in the Navy in the anti-submarine campaign

in the American theater or in the Army in the theater but outside the continental limits of the U.S. A bronze service star denotes this service. A veteran holding the American Defense Service Medal (1939-1941) is eligible for VFW membership if he or she earned the "foreign service" clasp (Army), "fleet" or "base" (Navy and Marine Corps) or "sea" (Coast Guard). A bronze service star represents these clasps.

Museum Needs Listed

Curator Elmer Rafiner, of the VFW James E. Van Zandt Museum at National Headquarters in Kansas City, says he is seeking for display 1945 and 1951 National Convention badges and all National Convention badges prior to 1920. He also wants issues of the Foreign Service Magazine from September, 1912 to September, 1916, as well as a sailor's blue uniform with the "13 original states" buttons and a Marine Corps dress blue uniform. National Headquarters is located at 34th and Broadway, Kansas City, Mo. 64111. Telephone number is 816-756-3390.

Reunion Information

An electronic bulletin board for the listing and accessing of Armed Forces reunions is now available to all active duty personnel and veterans. All that is required is a computer, a modem and a telephone line.

Originally started to list U.S. Coast Guard reunions, by Herbert W. Reith, a life member of Post 3040, Asheville, N.C., it has been expanded to cover all uniformed services, including the U.S. Public Health Service's Commissioned Officer Corps. Sponsor is the USS Merrill (DE 392) Reunion Association, a group of Coast Guardsmen who served on the Merrill during WWII.

For more information, write reunion coordinators, USS Merrill Reunion Assn., P.O. Box 681, Enka, NC 28728-0681. If a reply is requested, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

FES Helps Disabled Vets

By Roxanne Fischetti

You can't imagine what it feels like to be able just to stand up and talk to someone while looking them in the eye," said Roger Tackett, a combat-wounded veteran who has been paralyzed from the waist down for the past 20 years. "There is not a word good enough to describe the way it feels."

Tackett, a VFW member who was wounded while serving as a Marine in Vietnam in 1967, was part of a demonstration of functional electronic stimulation (FES) at Independence '87, a three-day exposition for disabled American veterans which took place on Capitol Hill early in the spring.

Sponsored by the Veterans Administration Rehabilitation Research and Development Service and the Department of Commerce Minority Business and Development Agency, Independence '87 featured hands-on demonstrations of revolutionary prosthetic equipment and rehabilitation technology, much a result of VA-funded research.

Research into FES is bringing new hope to the wheelchair-bound with a revolutionary concept designed to restore motion in paralyzed muscles. The increasing complexity and compactness of computers is one of the keys to the success of the research. It offers great promise to patients suffering from spinal cord damage as well as paralysis due to stroke, multiple sclerosis and cerebral palsy.

In FES, electrodes send electrical signals from a small computer worn on the patient's belt directly to the muscles of the paralyzed patient, enabling them to move.

Two types of FES programs were demonstrated in Independence '87. The one developed at Wright State University of Ohio, which Tackett demonstrated, uses external electrodes. In a Cleveland VA Medical Center—Case Western Reserve University program, the electrodes are surgically implanted directly into the muscles.



Roger Tackett and George Beyer take a stroll around the expo.

Tackett, who currently serves as the special assistant for veterans affairs to the governor of Ohio, had been walking only for six weeks, so it was still quite a new experience for him. George Beyer, another Wright State demonstrator, had been walking for a year and a half. He is a quadriplegic injured at the lower neck level.

"They call George the 'road run-

ner,'" said Dr. Charles Hathoway, acting director of the program. "He's been clocked up to two kilometers an hour."

The Cleveland VA program is headed by Dr. Bryon Marsolais. "Ours is not just a walking system," Dr. Marsolais explained. "It is a motor function system which can be used anywhere muscle power is needed. For example, stroke victims may

need power in their arms and hands."

Sam Khawam, a 28-year-old gunshot victim who demonstrated at the Expo for Dr. Marsolais, has been walking with the Cleveland system since December, 1982.

"Sam is currently using a temporary implant system which has 32 channels," said Marsolais. "Our goal for him would be a 48-channel permanent implant system. Right now we have a stroke victim with partial paralyzation. We will be implanting an eight-channel permanent system in him very soon.

"Our goal is to have all the bugs out of the permanent system with up to 48 channels in three years. That means a paraplegic will be able to use the system on his own to walk up to a mile a day. In five years, we hope to have the system available through other VA medical centers and possibly commercially. We believe that up to 20% of paraplegics will be able to use our system to get out of their wheelchairs and walk."

Sam said, "I now look forward to the day when I can park my car in the parking lot of a mall, leave my wheelchair in the car and go shopping just like anyone else."

Prosthetics research has a long history within the VA. The need to find new and improved prostheses for World War II amputees led Gen. Omar Bradley, then the administrator, to establish the Prosthetic Appliance Service, and the VA has been a recognized world leader in the field ever since.

During the last four decades, the VA has led the way from the use of crude wooden and leather limbs to today's high tech devices controlled by amplified sensory signals generated by the patient's muscles. A major advance began in the late 1960s with the use of immediate post-surgical fitting of artificial lower-extremity prostheses together with early ambulation.

In 1979, a VA medical center team was able to report a decline in mortality rate from 16% to zero and an

average reduction of post-surgical hospitalization of three months through the use of these procedures. In the most recent estimate, in 1982, the procedures also saved the VA approximately \$7 million.

A recent breakthrough in the field of prosthetics is the Seattle Foot. This is the end result of years of effort by the VA Rehabilitation Research and Development Service, Dr. Ernest Burgess, a Seattle orthopedic surgeon, and his Prosthetics Research Study.

The Seattle Foot allows lower leg amputees to run, jump, play basketball and participate in just about any other athletic activity. Made of a high-strength plastic spring and high durability foam, the device simulates the action of a normal human calf muscle. One of the speakers at Independence '87, former Nebraska Gov. Robert Kerry, a combat-wounded Vietnam veteran, was wearing a Seattle Foot.



Administrator Thomas Turnage gets a demonstration in the latest wheelchair technology.

Other product demonstrations at Independence '87 included personal vehicles that can climb stairs, robotic aids that can be programmed to assist quadriplegics with their daily tasks, computer hardware and software for the blind and hearing impaired and the latest in wheelchair design.

Independence '87 provided a singular experience for the hundreds

of disabled veterans who attended. They got the chance not only to try out the latest in technology but to discuss their needs and concerns with leaders in the field of rehabilitation engineering informally and person-to-person.

Panel discussions featuring VA and private sector experts covered topics varying from new directions for rehabilitation engineering to the short and longterm prospects for FES.

"The last few years have seen many exciting breakthroughs in rehabilitation engineering and design, but the consumer rarely has the opportunity to try those products that best suit his or her individual needs," said Dr. Margaret Giannini, director of the VA's Rehabilitation Research and Development Service. "By bringing together a cross-section of state-of-the-art and emerging technology, we enabled veterans and the public to try for themselves the many products that enhance their lives."

Independence '87 highlighted the unveiling of a Mobile Technology Center (MOTEC), designed to bring the same type of rehabilitation engineering information demonstrated in Washington to the veteran consumers in their home towns.

MOTEC will use tractor-trailers to carry demonstrations, exhibits and films to sites around the country.

"Many disabled veterans have limited mobility and financial resources," said Dr. Giannini. "The idea of MOTEC is to bring these demonstrations directly to the people who need them most."

During the ribbon cutting ceremony which opened Independence '87, VA Administrator Thomas K. Turnage said: "We're proud of the fact that VA has been in the forefront not only of the research effort but in transferring this new technology and bringing the discoveries of the lab to the hospital wards and the homes of the veterans who need them and to the general public as well." ■

An Australian Memory

This year Australians are marking the bicentennial of their country. The first shipload of Britons arrived there on Jan. 26, 1788. In this century, Australians have fought alongside Americans, whom they so closely resemble, in two World Wars and the Korean and Vietnam Wars. During World War II, the key American strategic victory at the Battle of the Coral Sea in early May, 1942, saved Australia from Japanese invasion, and hundreds of thousands of Americans were to serve there. One of them was National Chaplain Boyd Winterton.

By Boyd W. Winterton

It was November, 1945, and WWII had been over for two months when I received orders to take the first available transportation from Hollandia, New Guinea, to Brisbane, Australia. This delighted me, because the alternative was to ride an empty tanker to Bahrain, on the Persian Gulf, via the Singapore Straits and the Indian Ocean. Thoughts of an empty oiler, partly loaded with ballast, riding high on the waves during the monsoon season made me happy to be going to the land down under, the Land of the Southern Cross.

It would be untrue to say I felt no nostalgia as I bade "so long" to a few Navy buddies with whom I had worked in torrential rains, mud and dust for the past several months loading ships of the U.S. 7th Fleet.

Traveling to Sentani Airstrip by way of Wilson Beach, as I had done many, many times before, made me conscious of the fact that freedom does not come cheaply. The waters of Humboldt Bay were relatively quiet now except for the sounds of surf against the Navy port facility and the post office dock. There were the obvious remains of a few twin-engined Betsies and Zeroes near the airstrip and the oft talked about Gen. Douglas MacArthur home, which in reality was a modest frame dwelling.

Soon I was on my way to Finschhafen, an outpost on the eastern coast of New Guinea, aboard a C-47 piloted by a Royal Dutch Air Force officer. Reports were that the Old Gooney Bird had not had a major overhaul in several months. I believed them when I observed the loadmaster securing the rear door with a strand of wrapping wire. With a little luck and a silent prayer, we cleared the mahoganies at the end of the runway. After refueling at Finschhafen, we resigned ourselves to an all night journey over the Coral Sea — destination, Townsville, Queensland. As we cleared the runway, I looked out a small window and beheld with wondrous awe the multitudinous colors below, shades of green and yellow near the shore, varying hues of pink and blue, reflections from coral formations beneath the surface gradually merging into deep blue. Thoughts crept through my mind, "How could anything so beautiful be so ugly in the tall grass of the rust-colored and infested swamps below?"

The transfer to Australia soon taught me that there are unselfish people everywhere who live and love life, who exemplify national pride in country and family.

Not long before twilight the colors of the evening sky closed in on us. I slumped down on the canvas bucket seat, catnapped, awoke, munched on a cold sandwich and dreamed a bit of home. Completing a 4 a.m. refueling stop at Townsville, we flew on to Brisbane, a semi-urban city nestled in the sub-tropics with a population of approximately 300,000 in 1945. We transients checked in at

the Lennon Hotel. The first thing I did was to buy a morning newspaper and a half-gallon of cold, whole milk, for which I paid two shillings and six pence, equivalent to 40 cents U.S.

During my six-month tour of duty in Australia, I was impressed, not only with its vastness, grandeur and beauty, but also with the variety of its untapped resources. Mining and minerals of many kinds, building and industrialization, sheep, wool, dairy and associated products, field crops, orchards, vineyards, water and harnessed water power caused me to pause and ponder the ultimate destiny of this great country.

Despite my short sojourn, I tried to know more of this country and this people than I did prior to leaving the islands. In New Guinea, I learned that most of my Aussie comrades were fiercely independent and that the "diggers" were disciplined, dedicated soldiers. The transfer to Australia soon taught me that there are unselfish people everywhere who live and love life, who exemplify national pride in country and family; that there really was a Phar Lap, a miracle horse, unbeaten and unchallenged on several continents. I learned that most people of this great commonwealth were forgiving, considering what purportedly happened to this wonder horse in the States. I learned that, come Christmastime, the doors of some wonderful folks were open to a few of us who happened to be stationed 10,000 miles or so away from home to come and partake of delicious offerings and to feel a benevolent, giving spirit in a home where everyday Christian virtues were commonplace. One such family was the Phelans residing out Albion Way in Brisbane. I shall never forget their hospitality and many kindnesses extended to me during that Christmas season.

Shortly after the year's end I was on my way to Sydney to continue

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service to the fleet and, in effect, to continue requisite Reverse Lend Lease payments and accountability similar to that accomplished in Brisbane. As part of the transfer operation to Sydney, we junior Navy officers were assigned to drive five Mercury sedans from Brisbane to Sydney, approximately 600 miles over a two-lane, mostly gravel, national highway. Their synthetic rubber tires showed signs of wear, and it seemed likely that we would experience some problems with them en-route. Two hours out of Brisbane, we had our first blowout. It must have seemed unusual to the sheep farmer who observed six young U.S. Navy officers ferrying five vehicles, going somewhere. He invited us to lunch, and although we said, "No, we couldn't do that," each of us inwardly welcomed the idea of lunch at a sheep station. Soon we were seated around a large kitchen table eating potato soup, sourdough bread with lots of butter and fresh milk. I've asked myself many times since what would I have done under similar circumstances? Irrespective of the answer, I believe there are good people everywhere who, endowed with the spirit of giving and sharing, exemplify the admonition of Jesus to his disciples as he was about to leave them, "Feed my sheep."

Certain parallels between this Republic and the great Commonwealth of Australia are noteworthy.

Throughout this year, across the breadth and length of this land, we have celebrated the Bicentennial of the Constitution. Eighteen years after Capt. Cook's landing at Botany Bay in 1770, history indicates Capt. Arthur Phillip, Royal Navy, founded a civilization in Australia in 1788; in effect a Bicentenary following ours by 12 years.

Both nations have fulfilled roles as havens for the oppressed, for those seeking political and religious freedom. Lachlan Macquarie, one of a long line of governors of New

South Wales, was known as a pioneer, a builder and an emancipator of convicts from the Old Country.

Both have provided economic opportunities during the past 200 years for those who are willing to assume

At the conclusion of the recent VFW Western Conference in Anchorage, Alaska, all departing Comrades and Sisters were reminded that "once having visited Alaska, a part of your heart remains." Similarly, I am confident that a part of me remains in Australia because of the impact that many choice people and places have had on my life.

a certain amount of risk, endowed with self-reliance, hard work and a degree of autonomy.

During the major conflicts of this Australia and the United States have fought side-by-side in the preservation of liberty, freedom and a democratic way of life. It is my conviction that life has purpose, including the origin and purpose of some nations. As President Ezra Taft Benson, of

the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, points out, "History is not an accident." Was it an accident that Australia existed as a lifeline, as a primary resource, as a buffer between the Allies and the totalitarian powers, thereby preserving democracy as a form of government in that area, antedating and during World War II?

The "Encyclopedia Britannica" says, "Like Washington, D.C. and certain other federal cities, Canberra was deliberately chosen and planned as a capital on a site formerly little occupied." Canberra was designed by Walter Burley Griffin, of Chicago, the layout being one of marked distinction and originality, approaching closely that adopted by our own Washington, D.C.

The Judaeo-Christian ethic, the value placed on life and its preservation, is of the utmost importance to these two great nations. And, as life is important, so are commemoratives and memorials dedicated to the memories of departed loved ones and families who did not come back. In this country, we take pride in participating in Veterans Day and Memorial Day activities. Similarly, ANZAC (Australia, New Zealand Army Corps) Day is a time set aside during which anyone who has served under the colors of these two great nations muster at a designated point and time and march to the roll of distant drums along the way. So deep are the feelings and emotions expressed during these marches that a visitor is left incredulous.

At the conclusion of the recent VFW Western Conference in Anchorage, Alaska, all departing Comrades and Sisters were reminded that "once having visited Alaska, a part of your heart remains." Similarly, I am confident that a part of me remains in Australia because of the genuineness of its people and because of the impact that many choice people and places have had on my life. ■

FOOT BALL



D O W N U N D E R

Rusty Mann

WHEN ARMY BEAT NAVY

This month Australians mark their bicentennial. Many VFW members serving in Australia during WW II remember fondly their hosts in those dark days. In this account, the Aussies learned about American football.

By Dan B. McCarthy

Talk about your Super Bowl, just read this story from The Sydney (Australia) Morning Herald of Monday, July 5, 1943:

GRID-IRON GAME

Two well-trained teams of American footballers gave a splendid exhibition of the grid-iron game at the Sydney Sports Grounds yesterday.

Army beat Navy by 14 points to nil, scoring touchdowns in the first and last quarters. The match drew a capacity crowd of more than 33,000. Thousands more could not gain admission. Game proceeds are for the Australian Servicemen Fund.

The speed and almost continuous movement of Rugby are missing in the American game.

Tackling is a feature. It was not always low, as in Rugby, but it was severe. Army made most ground with the forward pass, both touchdowns coming as the result of this move, which is the most spectacular of the game.

Cheerleaders added gaiety to the occasion — a celebration of the American Day of Independence.

Four Herald photographs were published: an Army GI with his mule in tow; a sailor with a frisky goat; an upsidown cheerleader doing a body flip after the first Army TD, and an unidentified Army ball carrier stiffarming a Navy would-be tackler.

Among game spectators was T/3 Anthony F. Noto, for 34 years a member of VFW Post 1290, Easton, Pa. Noto was stationed in Sydney then with Port Detachment C before shipping out to Lae, New Guinea. His letter to Chris Anderson, editor-in-chief of the Sydney newspaper, brought him photocopies of the story in the Herald.

"The bulk of the sellout game crowd was made up of Aussie civilians, many of them lady friends of American servicemen, and there were thousands of U.S. and Aussie military people of all ranks and every branch of service," Noto said.

"As is true of most games involving squads hastily assembled, Army and Navy team plays were mostly basic. Running plays on first and second downs, and pass attempts on third, playing for longer yardage; when that failed, the fourth down punt.

"There were times I amazed my Aussie friends by

predicting a third down pass or fourth down punt. The teams used backfield offense formations which today are called the shotgun. Quarterbacks didn't squat over the centers for the ball snap," Noto said.

"Aussies were befuddled by constant huddles. 'Why do they form circles after every play? What do they talk about?' they asked. Aussies are used to just about total non-stop action in their sports. They found timeouts, huddles, clock stopping after incomplete passes, first down measurements and so forth both baffling and tedious," said the former editor of Base E Headquarters Company Daily Beacon.

A fellow Pennsylvanian, Ray Koslasky, of Fairhope, who was later to share a tent with Noto in New Guinea, snared one of the Army touchdown passes, Noto recalled.

"July is just about mid-winter Down Under," he said. "By Pennsylvania standards Aussie winters are mild, more like Florida or Southern California. On that bright, sunny Fourth of July the temperature at gametime was around 70 degrees. Our Army troops were dressed in traditional winter olive drab blouse and pants, more than enough warmth for that day."

The Army team fielded enlisted troops only, Noto said, and had 32 in uniform. Navy's team was mostly enlisted men, with seven officers and two Marine lieutenants, the latter in Navy's backfield. Navy suited up 34 players.

Another Army player from Noto's outfit was Nolan Eudy, of Lubbock, Texas. Noto recalls: "Nolan Eudy was the prototype of the big, rawboned Texan. He played tackle." Program statistics listed him at 6'1" and 190 pounds.

"Then there was Ray Koslasky, a star of Fairhope High School, located in that western Pennsylvania region which still is a proving ground for outstanding football players. He was in Army's backfield."

Game officials were Ens. Harrington, field judge; Lt. Dillon, Army, umpire; S. Summers, American Red Cross, referee; and Lt. (jg) Alexander, head linesman.

For military secrecy, the game's location on the program's cover was "Somewhere in Australia." But that was the only thing secret about the game, except maybe the intricacies of American football, made all the more incomprehensible when described in terms of rugby.

One halftime event was something never yet thought of, despite hoopla extravaganzas, on U.S. gridirons . . . a chariot race for the Mustache Cup! Chariot drivers were Nero, Marcus Superbus, Marcia and Boadicea.

A 1 p.m. band concert preceded a flag-raising ceremony and national anthems of both nations. "On, Brave Old Army Team" and "Anchors Aweigh" topped musical selections.

Navy people, naturally, became hoarse singing: "Army mule! Army mule! Hee-haw, hee-haw, hee-haw . . . Army mule!"

The kicking and passing competition between the Americans and Aussies from the rugby leagues was a novelty, though no results were reported. A one-mile trotting exhibition featured sulky drivers and horses competing for the Independence Day Cup.

The game's souvenir programme (Australian spelling), selling for one bob (shilling) or 16 cents American in 1943, briefly described American football for Aussies in the sellout crowd.

For military secrecy, the game's location on the program cover was, "Somewhere in Australia."

Also from the program: "American football (gridiron) is a derivation of rugby; one of the principal differences is that team members run interference (shepherding, illegal in rugby) for the ball carrier to aid him in advancing the ball. Many systems and styles of offensive plays are employed with numerous defensive formations designed to stop them.

"As expressed in rugby language: One of the main objectives from the line-up is to secure an overlap from the base of the scrum to the wing three-quarter."

Now that that's perfectly clear to both nations' football devotees. It's noted here that fans paid five bob for game tickets, about 80 cents. As Noto said: "I recall that the Aussie quid (pound) was pegged around U.S. \$3.25."

A high school English teacher inducted into the Army Feb. 17, 1942, after his first semester of teaching, Noto was discharged at Camp Atterbury,

Ind., in late October, 1945. He says, "I had served 44 months without receiving a leave to go home on furlough — not for one minute."

But, he continued, "a highlight of overseas duty was a reunion just before Christmas of 1944 with my brother, Philip, in what was then Hollandia in Dutch New Guinea, now part of Indonesia. Philip served with the 55th Field Artillery that played an active part in recapturing Luzon, largest of the Philippine islands. Later, when I was homeward bound in fall of 1945 we met again in Manila."

'Aussies were befuddled by constant huddles. They asked why the players form circles after every play and wanted to know what they talk about. Australians are used to just about total non-stop action in their sports.'

Noto made two postwar trips to Australia. During 1961 he revived vivid memories during a visit to Kincoppal Convent of the Sacred Heart School at Elizabeth Bay, where he was quartered after the U.S. Army took it over in 1942. With his wife, Janet, they spent two months there early in 1980.

Noto talks about the "big break" of his overseas years . . . "nine months' duty in Sydney, one of the greatest, if not the greatest city in the world!" ■

HOME AT LAST

Fifteen years ago the U.S. signed the Paris Accords on Jan. 27,
ending this country's combat role in Vietnam. For many veterans, the war will never end.

By John Stahlman

I left Vietnam in 1966. The final leg of my trip home occurred 19 years later. Thank God I am home at last.

The last stop on the long trip home was a visit to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. For years, I knew I had to visit that half-buried wall of black stone. I can't explain the need or the delay, and I doubt that anyone else can.

Like the salmon fighting upstream and afraid not to, like a moth drawn to the light, I was driven to a wall made by memories, bad dreams and lost hope.

In the late afternoon of that summer day in 1985, I joined hundreds of tourists walking the length of the memorial. Assuming they had come for good reason, I watched for clues. Some stopped and pointed to one of the 58,000 names. Some wiped wet eyes. An elderly couple held hands and just stared at the wall in silence. But my eyes told me little about their reasons for coming and nothing about mine.

So I eavesdropped on the conversations of strangers with the hope that their words might help me see. Most of the conversations were in whispers, but I did hear a little boy's innocent question to his dad, "Do you mean all these died before I was born?"

A small boy's lack of memory opened the floodgate of mine.

Two days after arriving in Saigon, I went to a chapel service. I do not remember the chaplain's name or his sermon, but I do remember the words of a hymn we sang. "If he died to make men holy, let us die to make men free." For the next 363 days, I wondered if duty would require a fulfillment of the words of a hymn sung by my great-grandfather during the Civil War and by me in Vietnam.

That 19-year-old memory prompted a more recent one, W.H. Auden's

Memories of a buddy's survival at the Michelin rubber plantation, Thanksgiving, 1965. The public executions by firing squad in the Cholon market; the flare-lit nights around Tan Son Nhut airport and midevac choppers unloading their mangled human cargo while I watched from an air-conditioned dining room atop a former French hotel.

And always the faces and names.

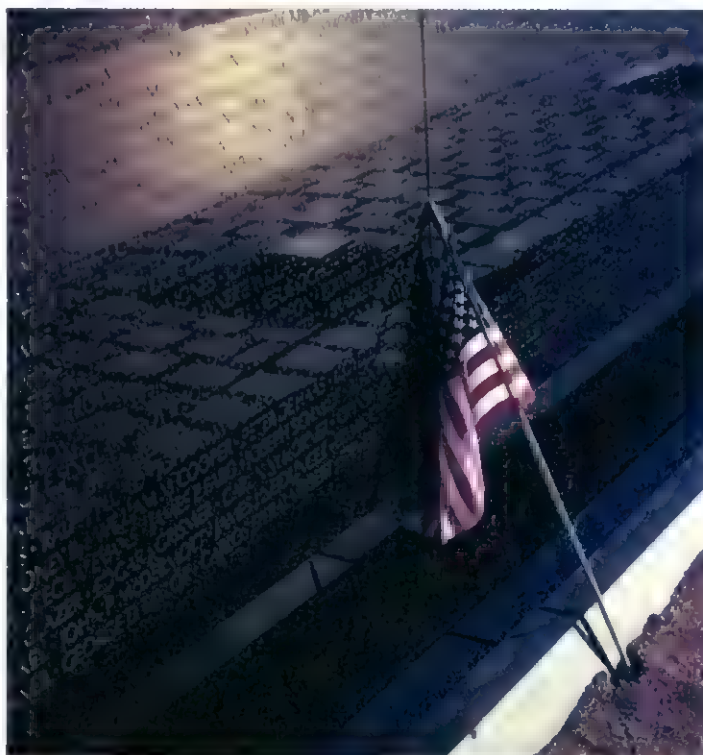
The names of more than 58,000 men are cut into the smooth finish of black stone of the memorial. Beginning with the first and ending with the last, the names are arranged in the order they died. I was struck by this unexpected kindness. Those who had served together and died together were memorialized together. Why had I not met such a kind and thoughtful person in the last 19 years?

The combination of thoughtfulness and military precision that froze the wartime calendar made the search for names easier than I expected.

The need to find a name, to remember a person, to touch all that is left transforms the memorial into a constant reunion. Some visitors touch a name. Others

make pencil and paper rubbings to take home. Some leave flags, flowers, and messages. I read the names in silence, shuddered at the number and broke my silence with crying.

A stranger put his arm around me



"Epitaph for the Unknown Soldier:"

To save your world, you asked
this man to die;/Would this
man, could he see you now, ask
why?

Memory had brought me here.



and said nothing. What was there to say? If I couldn't find words, how in the world could a stranger? I walked away to find my wife and son waiting for me and hoping my secret agony finally would be history.

Leaving with them, I walked past the directory that lists the inscribed names in alphabetical order and gives the location of each name on the memorial. I knew I would be back to look for the names when I

could be alone.

Shortly after sunrise the next morning, I searched the directory for the names of men I knew and who had

continued on page 32

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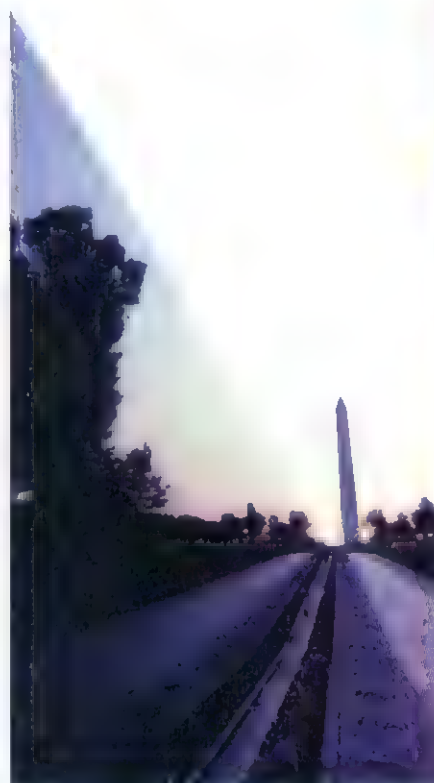
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VIETNAM PERSPECTIVES

continued from page 31



left their blood in Vietnam. Following the directions, I found their names on the shiny black wall.

Not one was missing. Bert Smith was there. He and I had served in Germany together and had jumped from the same airplane a dozen times without getting hurt. But together again in Vietnam, one of us hadn't been so lucky.

The names of the young men from my hometown, boys the last time I saw them, were there. I wondered what their families thought when they saw me, healthy and whole, visiting my thankful parents.

One of my boyhood idols, a colonel, had a little mark by his name indicating he was still missing in action. His mother committed suicide, and his father died a recluse before knowing whether their only son was dead or alive.

The name of a church elder's son was there. An airplane crash killed

the son, and grief killed the father a few years later.

The friends I had left in Vietnam, every one of them, was there.

Sgt. Tallquist's name was not there. I had heard he had been killed after I left. Then I knew he hadn't. I smiled and sighed.

Foolishly, I looked for my name. It wasn't there either. I was, indeed, a survivor.

Suddenly, with that realization, I was face to face with 19 years of accumulated, irrational, survivor's guilt. Friends had died, and I lived, not because I was more careful or tougher than they. I survived for no obvious reason, and they died for the same. Barely recognized, often repressed but always active, survivor's guilt showed itself in a gush of sobbing and tears.

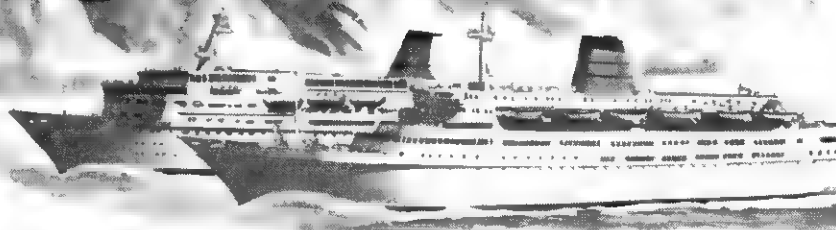
I never expected Jane Fonda to understand. I resented the understanding offered by Rambo and his fans. But the silence of 58,000 voices at dawn said they understood. In the cool, lonely silence of dawn, I was again united with men who had done their duty. As reminders of that Asian war, they continued to do what duty and love of country demanded. And their faithfulness to duty opened my eyes to the duty that was mine: To go home, to live and to love. It was the permission to come home I had needed for so long.

Finally, I walked away from the silent wall and past three bronze men looking for their lost buddies. I stopped, turned around for just one more look and saluted my emancipators. At last I was free from the chains of survivor's guilt. At last, I was at home. Freedom to come home, to be understood and to be loved came from those who died in my place.

The following Sunday in church, I remembered another who died in my place.

Some of the best sermons are in stone, not words. ■

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HARTFORD HOLIDAYS

PAPER WALK

By Lou Beck

In Vietnam in 1967, they said night patrols could be frightening. Especially if you had never been on one. I hadn't. This was my first time out. I was a Navy hospital corpsman attached to the Marines and straight out of Field Medical Service School at Camp Lejeune. I had been a grand total of two days "in country." Green and mean, say the Marines. I didn't admit to the latter.

"Beck, get your gear squared away! No drifters in this platoon. If you forget something, you do without it," the lieutenant yelled. He was a real veteran. Nine patrols, four of them night recons. But I heard he hadn't seen any action yet. I really started to worry about that night.

"Yes, sir," I said. "I'll take extra battle dressings and plasmanate sets. Just in case." My confidence was growing.

"Forget it, Doc. Carry only the unit one first aid kit and some extra morphine syrettes. Maybe some splints and Ace wraps. I'm not going to look for any real battles out there, and, besides, these grunts like to step in holes and twist their ankles. You would think they would know 'The Walk' by now," Lt. Morris said.

"The Walk, sir?" I asked. I hadn't heard that one yet.

"Yeah, you know, the paper walk. You really are green, aren't you, Doc. You better learn it, real ricky-tic.

You don't, and you're dead." My confidence began to wane.

He walked over to a couple of other grunts in the platoon. I was about to ask him what he was talking about, but I figured I better do what he said about the splints, Ace wraps and morphine. It would be dusk soon, and I didn't have time for a short course in Nam lingo.

We headed out as soon as it was dark. There was a half-moon and a light breeze, but no sounds. I couldn't

It's easy to get lost at night or be separated from your unit, so we all stayed within whispers of each other. Still no sounds. A thousand horrible scenarios began to race through my head, which was neatly encased in a steel helmet and green camo cover. I kept my right hand on my .45-caliber pistol, the only weapon medics were issued. I wished I had something else, like an M-14 with a fully automatic firing capability. But the Geneva Convention said something

about medics being non-combatants. Tell that to the gunnery sergeant who issued me the .45 back at base and said, "Hope you don't have to use this, Doc." I hoped so, too.

The quiet of the night was deafening, and I almost wished something, anything, would happen to break the tension.

We reached a grove of trees that looked like some kind of giant palms, but with no leaves. I saw the lieutenant pass the hand signal for a break, and everyone blended into the underbrush and trees. I wasn't tired, just a little scared. We were only out about four clicks after walking for three hours. I wondered why everyone

was walking so slowly at times, but I figured they just wanted to make sure they weren't going to step on some kind of booby-trap.

I sat down against one of the palms, and felt apprehensive, but I



Illustration by Linden Wilson

help wondering where the crickets and frogs were. We had crickets and frogs back in Ohio, why not Vietnam? My mind pondered this for awhile, but that was good. It kept the fear away temporarily.



was determined to be ever alert, just in case.

"You scared, Doc?" a voice near me asked. It was Cpl. Charlie Poole, our M-79 grenadier. We had chatted at Phu Bai Combat Base before going out on patrol. I thought he was an okay guy, and I felt accepted by his friendship.

"Yeah, a little," I said, "But I'll be all right. How about you? You scared?"

"Not any more. This is my fourth patrol. Second at night, though. The day ones are better; you can see where you're walking," he said.

"Lt. Morris said I've got to learn 'The Walk', and I don't know what he means. Do you?" I asked.

"Uh huh. 'Paper Walk' is the real term. Ever hear it?" Charlie asked.

"No, what does it mean?" I asked.

"It's not an 'it', Doc, it's a 'way'," Charlie said. Now I was really curious, and somewhat confused.

"A what?" I asked.

"A 'way'. You know, the way you do things. The way you walk. You dig it, Doc?" he asked.

"Sort of," I said, "How do you do it?" The lieutenant's comment now seemed more important with each passing moment.

"Well, everyone does it differently, I guess," Charlie said. "But it all comes down to the same thing: paper. You see, paper is very thin and not very strong. It tears real easy, like these jungle greens in dry elephant grass. When you walk through these rice paddies and the bush, you've got to pick up your feet and put them down real gently, like you're walking on paper. Otherwise, the gooks will hear you, and they'll grease you and everybody with you." There went the last of my confidence,

I thought.

"OK, but that's impossible. You can't help making some noise, even if only a little," I said.

"You do, and you're dead, Doc," said Charlie. That sounded familiar.

The order was given to move out, and we spent the next four hours wandering in the night. The lieutenant and platoon sergeant kept checking their compasses and maps, and the rest of us just followed along. Some of the guys seemed as if

**The quiet of the
night was deafening,
and I almost wished
something, anything,
would happen to
break the tension...
I wasn't tired, just a
little scared.**

they knew where we were, but most, me included, probably didn't. I thought of a shepherd and his sheep. That's us, all right. I hadn't been issued a compass back at Phu Bai, and I knew I couldn't find my way

back by myself even if I had to, so I made sure I kept up with everybody.

We finally stopped and settled into an ambush position for the night somewhere out in the middle of a group of small hills. The platoon sergeant set up a night watch, and I, being the new guy, got the first watch. I stayed alert and, once relieved, remained tense and wide-awake all night. I wasn't taking any chances.

Morning came, and I welcomed the sunrise as if it were a Christmas present. We headed back to Phu Bai and got into the wire by late afternoon, tired and hungry but still alive. I felt elated. I had survived my first patrol. There would be many more, I knew, but I was eager to tell the tale of an uneventful, but, for me, harrowing, night patrol to anyone who would listen. No one would.

The platoon sergeant came over to where I was bunking. "Ready for another walk tonight, Doc?" he asked.

"This going to be a regular job, Sarge, or is this only part-time?" I jokingly asked.

"Don't worry, Doc. Just kidding about tonight. It's our platoon's turn to guard the perimeter. No sweat."

"Good. Guess I'll have to wait to practice my 'walk' then," I said.

"You did OK," said the sergeant. "But next time, don't tear up the paper so much. Get it?"

"I got it," I said.

He left to go over to a couple of other grunts working on a field radio, and I began to write my first letter home since getting to Vietnam.

But it wasn't the same. The material I was writing on, some stationery I bought at the PX on Okinawa, seemed different somehow. ■

AN AFGHAN FORAY

After enjoying a pleasant evening and a half-dozen Heinekens on someone else's tab at the American Club in University Town, I turned in early. University Town is a laid back suburb of Peshawar on Pakistan's Northwest Frontier. The American Club was an isle of sanity in that strict Moslem country.

A knock at my door awakened me; my watch read 20:34. Jet lag still had me groggy. I opened the door expecting to see one of my journalist colleagues, but my visitor was a political party leader, whom, for his protection, we'll know as Delta Nine.

Delta Nine runs one of the seven Mujahadeen rebel groups. They are the holy warriors who have been fighting back against Soviet genocide in Afghanistan. Estimates are that from 1 million to 1.5 million Afghans have been killed in the eight-year-long war. More than 3 million Afghans have fled to Iran or Pakistan, with little more than the clothes on their backs.

Delta Nine declined tea as Moslems fast during Ramadan, which goes all through May. Disregarding the rumor that all the phones and rooms in the hotel were bugged, Delta Nine smiled and said, "We go in tonight. You want to join us?"

Hell, yes! That was why I courted bankruptcy to travel half way around the world. To bust the Afghan-Paki border was the prime objective; combat footage or getting out alive came second, or something like that. I dressed in dark gray Ali Baba clothes, then started badgering Delta Nine for a Kalashnikov.

No. Three times I tried to reason with him. He was adamant: "No rifle. Just camera. We go now."

Delta Nine, his bodyguards and I entered a nondescript mini-bus. It was pouring down rain, very unseasonal. This was our best bet for a quick foray into Russian-occupied Afghanistan. Radar would be weakened, if not totally useless. Infrared night vision devices were of little value in heavy rain, and plain old vision and sophisticated remote sensors would be impaired. Soldiers worldwide have an aversion to get-

ting wet; many remain inside a shelter, and this is what would get me around a combination of Pakistani frontier guards and the initial scattering of Communist positions.

We moved north up to near Landi Khotal, with its smuggling trails. I met maybe 40 Muj at a staging area and was introduced to each. Most carried Chinese 56 Kalashnikovs, except the two rocket-wallahs responsible for the RPG-7 bazookas and the most popular dude there, the insurance against MiGs and Mi-24 helicopters, the American-supplied Stinger missile launcher. We had about 20 pack horses and mules with us to carry food, ammo and other supplies over to their brothers already in place. We marched off into the rainy night, not feeling the chill from the high altitude. It was exertion enough to keep up the pace as we worked our way along the muddy, rocky trail. Up the mountain, moving from maybe 6,000 to 8,000 feet in elevation, we made our way into Afghanistan.

The rain continued to pour, but I was too concerned with not stepping on a land mine, or getting zapped by a sniper, to worry about that. I kept checking my compass for bearing. If we were ambushed, I wanted to know where I was as accurately as possible. I had to know which way to run.

Finally, we arrived at a well-fortified and well-concealed bunker somewhere near Khowst. From there, we could observe one of the few roads in the area. It served the big Russian base near Khowst. The garrison included an airfield and a large armored contingent.

Delta Nine had made this expedition to deliver communications and supplies and to make an inspection of the fighting area and bring a journalist along.

Everyone's attention was riveted on the Soviet armored unit on the move on the road some distance away. We could see one segment of the road. At any time, 25 sets of headlights were moving towards Khowst. This went on for four hours. I figured that if I saw four hours of tanks, trucks and armored cars,

then I just saw 12,000 Soviet troops on the move. A division?

Delta Nine was engaged in conversation with some local Mujahadeen, as I hunkered down in the bunker and tried to pick up parts of their conversation. Outside, the Russians were firing their tank cannons and machine guns off into the darkness at different angles, using the "recon by fire" or "harassing fire" tactic. None of the projectiles landed near us. Delta Nine was showing increasing signs of paranoia and kept a half dozen bodyguards around him at all times. His worrying began to affect me, and I began to wonder how far his committee had been infiltrated by KHAD, the Afghan Secret Service. They would get a good bounty from the KGB for capturing me. The Red Army announced last year that it would kill any journalist found with the Mujahadeen.

The rain let up a bit, so I crouched outside the bunker to observe the convoy through binoculars. The massed column lumbered down the muddy road that probably was badly rutted. Afghanistan has few good roads, and most Russian units are roadbound. They leave their bases only in large numbers, but this was beyond anything I'd ever witnessed before, and I've been at Fort Knox and Fort Hood, plus those wargames in Germany. Never before had I seen an armored division badassing its way down one road.

That's the way the Afghan war is: crazy. It's just not like anything Americans have been led to believe. Mass, indiscriminate bombing of Afghan villages goes on daily. Air raids on refugee or Muj bases inside Pakistan also occur daily. The Soviets scatter boobytraps disguised as children's toys or other harmless objects that have just enough explosives in them to maim, not enough to kill.

At times, the sounds of tank treads carried over, a distinctive sound, broken with the report of a cannon or the staccato chatter of a machine gun burst. Delta Nine had concluded his meeting with his people, so we made ready to return to Pakistan.

Some distance away from the bunker, the locals had erected a half

dozen field expedient launch platforms for some captured 122mm rockets. It was similar to the methods that the Viet Cong used to employ. Simple, made of two wooden supports and aimed by dead reckoning.

With loud cries of, "Allah! Allah el Akhbar!" the Mujahadeen fired the rockets with an electrical detonating device. None came even near the tank convoy's stragglers, but it was a great morale booster for the holy warriors. They would never surrender to the yoke of godless Muscovites.

We set out at a good pace, slipping through the mud in pretty good spirits. The Muj formed a column about 100 meters long, with some pack animals tied together. I didn't let my soaking wet boots bother me. My Afghan hosts traveled in sandals. They ignored the rain. We continued on for maybe 20 minutes, when I heard the scariest sound in the world: a Katyusha rocket about two seconds from impact. I fell into the mud, covering my head with my arms. The first rocket exploded far up the mountain and a few hundred meters away. Within the next 30 seconds, eight more rockets landed within a half mile of our group. The closest one came 70 yards away, maybe 70 yards lower in elevation, the only thing that saved us. Six horses were killed by shrapnel, an ugly sight. The rockets continued to bracket our trail, probably the Russians' usual procedure when they didn't know the Muj's exact position. In a 20-minute bombardment, we were treated to about 200 rockets. There's nothing you can do in this situation, except to dig a hole in the ground with your navel.

When a Katyusha 122mm rocket hits, it hits hard. Two seconds from impact, there's a terrifying racket, quickly followed with the blast from the explosion. Hot metal flies crazily, ripping through most things. The ground shakes in a way you'd never imagine. The earth literally is moved around, with you hugging it. Then comes the noise of the explosion. If you can hear it, you're probably not hit yet.

continued on page 61

By Mark R. Brown



VA and the Aging

By Bob Moore

'Demographic data show a virtual explosion in the number of veterans 65 and older — from the current 4.8 million to 7.2 million in 1990 to 9 million by the year 2000. Caring for the aging veteran population is viewed as a challenge and opportunity by the VA.'

The Veterans Administration is preparing for old age, as the nation's largest health-care provider charts the course for an aging America.

It is no surprise that the population is aging at an unprecedented rate, but the fact that the veteran population is aging much faster is an eye-opening phenomenon.

Demographic data show a virtual explosion in the number of veterans 65 and older — from the current 4.8 million to 7.2 million in 1990 to 9

million by the year 2000.

Caring for the aging veteran population is viewed as a challenge and opportunity by the VA. It has combined a unique project integrating research, education and clinical achievements in geriatrics and gerontology to meet the medical needs of an increasing elderly population. The project is called GRECCS, standing for Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Centers. There are ten of them nationwide.

These centers gather a wealth of

information. They focus attention on care and medical needs of the elderly. The first center was established in 1975. In 1980, Congress passed legislation authorizing the expansion and enhancement of these research centers.

GRECCS are now at each of the following VA medical centers: Bedford and Brockton-West Roxbury, Mass.; Durham, N.C.; Gainesville, Fla.; St. Louis, Mo.; Little Rock, Ark.; Minneapolis, Minn.; Seattle and American Lake, Wash., and Sepulveda, West Los Angeles and Palo Alto, Calif.

As GRECC director at Palo Alto, Dr. Gerald M. Reaven defines his job as "increasing the basic knowledge about aging and transmitting that knowledge to health care providers which ultimately aids in improving the quality of medical care to the aged."

But it is difficult for him to be specific. "If I were to try to list all our research developments — or the numerous things we do to educate our agency's health-care providers and their elderly patients — it would be encyclopedic," he says.

Dr. Reaven says the outlook for older Americans has never been healthier and that less than 5% of Americans over 65 are likely to spend time in a nursing home.

"Life expectancy is on the rise, and the decline in death rates has been particularly evident in the upper age groups," Dr. Reaven says. "Most older Americans are in reasonably good physical health — 80% live independently, without any assistance.

"We are also in good mental health. Most mental problems result from illness or brain-damage, rather than aging," he adds.

Data show that older Americans use mental-health facilities at only half the rate of the general population and that true senility affects only a small percentage of the elderly.

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While supplies last, we'll sell new customers a guaranteed mint-state Brilliant Uncirculated Morgan silver dollar (**Order #7537**) for just \$39 — or a roll of 20 for just \$750 (save \$30). All coins are conservatively graded by our ANA-trained experts and come with a certificate of authenticity. You have a 15-day no-questions-asked return privilege. Limit 3 rolls.

To order by credit card, call toll-free 1-800-451-4463 at any time. Or send your check or money order to: International Coins & Currency, Inc., 11 E. State St., Box 218, Dept. 411, Montpelier, Vermont 05602. Add \$3.75 postage and handling per order.

AGING

continued from page 39

A note of concern among the medical profession is that older Americans are especially susceptible to the top three killers of the general population: heart disease, cancer and stroke, as well as several other conditions that single them out.

Arthritis commonly plagues the elderly. Other chronic conditions include hypertension, hearing and vision impairments, heart conditions and diabetes.

Dr. Reaven, who last year was named chairman of the National Diabetes Advisory Board, says that 80% of Americans over 65 report one of these chronic conditions.

"But fewer than one in six say they cannot carry on regular activities. And only one in five reports limitation in daily activities."

Statistics show that only one out of ten persons will alter their lifestyle—even after having been to a doctor. Geriatric specialists who work directly with elderly patients find this frustrating.

This trend, however, is beginning to change. Many Americans now have regular physical examinations, improve their diets, quit smoking and get proper exercise.

"Not only will they live longer but they'll live happier, more productive lives," Dr. Reaven says.

While the average life span is a little over 70, VA scientists who specialize in research on aging now believe humans could expect to live to 100 years in the future.

Although the aging process still leads to physical and mental decline, Dr. Reaven says the decline can be slowed. Lost or graying hair, wrinkled or sagging skin, declining strength and endurance, twitching or throbbing muscles and dental problems can be dealt with through proper exercise, diet, cosmetics or plastic surgery.

He says Americans should avoid excessive alcohol consumption, because it damages the liver and affects sexual performance, and they should eat less to reduce stress on the heart.

"We should exercise more and improve our circulation. We should also adjust our attitude on aging," Dr. Reaven urges.

VA Administrator Thomas K. Turnage says the VA is far ahead of society in general in facing the crunch of a growing number of older citizens.

At present the VA is training more geriatric medicine teams in its medical centers. It is putting greater emphasis on its residential home-care program, its hospital-based home-care program and its adult day-care centers.

"We are developing a program for older veterans which will allow them to receive diagnostic and therapeutic care during the day and return to their families at night," Turnage says. "We are emphasizing preventative rehabilitation, even such seemingly minor things as teaching older people to get in and out of a bath without risking a broken hip."

Turnage wants the VA to prepare for the future with realistic studies and thoughtful, innovative approaches. He says the VA must provide high-quality, inpatient acute-care services by increasing bed capacity and by establishing geriatric evaluation units in all the agency's 172 medical centers by the year 2000.

Offering his vision of the VA's future, the VA administrator says, "We will need to provide non-institutional health and support services by expanding the capacity of outpatient visits and adopting outreach programs to detect and prevent illness at an early stage."

Turnage promises that the VA would continue to meet the special needs of aging veterans and says that the agency must coordinate its aging programs with those in the community.

"The VA needs the help of the community because all America is graying. The issue of an aging population and what means exist or must be created to address this matter is an issue that should be of major concern to all," Turnage says. ■



Before he resigned recently, Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger received VFW national security and foreign affairs resolutions, adopted at the 88th National Convention, from Commander-in-Chief Earl L. Stock

Good Deeds Mean VFW Strength

The VFW's concern with national security and POW/MIA issues, youth activities and veterans' interests at all levels are shown in these pictures.



State Sen. Michael J. Tully (second from left) was the speaker at the Nassau County, N.Y., Council. With him are Connie Steers, Council legislative chairman; Council Sr Vice Commander Dan Cavanagh and North Hempstead Town Clerk John S. DaVanzo



Past Commander-in-Chief Arthur J. Fellwock assists Oklahoma Department Commander Garth Nixon (center) with an award for Nixon's promotion of youth activities in Oklahoma. Nixon pitched for the Cleveland Indians from 1942 to 1946 and for the New York Yankees from 1947 to 1954.



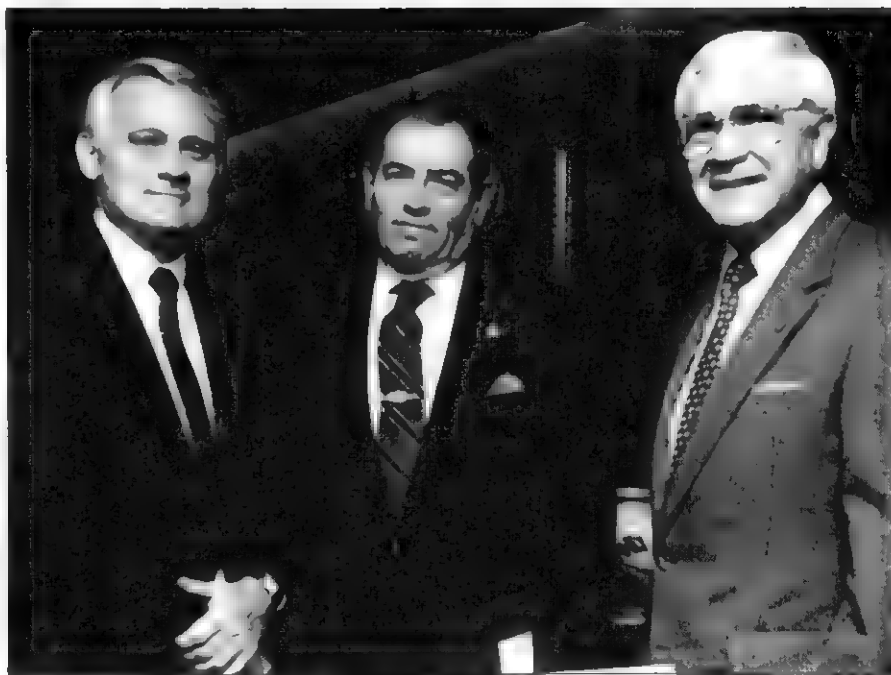
Rodolfo Hernandez (center) joins Melvin Mayfield (left) and Ronald E. Rosser as a Life Member of Post 3297, Delaware, Ohio. The three are Medal of Honor recipients. The numerals on the caps represent Hernandez's Korean War unit, the 187th Airborne. Rosser served in the 2nd Infantry Division in the Korean War and Mayfield in the 6th Infantry Division in WWII



Commander Earl Schoemaker, of Post 10116, Voorhees, N.J., accepts a plaque from Voorhees Deputy Police Chief Robert Hanacek, as QM Al Rea looks on. The award was in appreciation for the 35mm camera the Post donated to the police.



Representatives of seven veterans' organizations join to show support for the POW/MIA cause, as part of the May 21-24 Vietnam veterans program in Houston.



Joined by Washington Office Executive Director Cooper T. Holt, Commander-in-Chief Earl L. Stock meets with Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense William Hart before a Pentagon briefing



Commander Kenneth Backus, of Post 4495, Taylorville, Ill., presents Clarence A. Adams, a WWI veteran, with a Life Membership as he marks his 110th birthday. With them are Jr. Vice Commander Jack Brady, Past Commander Babe Servi and Sr. Vice Commander Albert Boeker. A second Life Member, not shown, living at the same nursing home is Rex Haner, 101.



Friendship Cemetery, containing the graves of 47 veterans, in Gladewater, Texas, recently was the scene of a flag dedication ceremony conducted by Post 9848 and its Ladies Auxiliary.



Thousand-dollar winners in the New Post drawing at the 88th National Convention were Department Commander Joseph I. Romano (left), of California, who won \$200 for third place and Commander William Jackson of Illinois, who won \$800 for first and second place in the drawing. Behind them are Post Development Director Joseph Ross and National Chief of Staff Paul E. Wampler.



Cub Scout Daniel Chartier, who saved his sister from drowning last year, receives a commendation from Post 1670, Laconia, N.H. Making the presentation are Post Adjutant Bill Holman and Commander Tony Barbaro



Radford University's ROTC unit receives a U.S. Flag from Post 776 Radford, Va. on Veterans Day



Commander James Cook, of Post 323, Stillwater, Minn., receives an award from Warder Robert Erickson and Mayor Frank Sommerfield of Oak Park Heights. Cook, a state police electrician, assisted an Oak Park policeman who was attempting to make an arrest.



These members of Post 3323 Westland, Mich. are about to set off for flag-raising ceremonies and presentations at a Westland museum, nursing home, cemetery, an air conditioning service and a restaurant

November Commanders-of-the-Month Department



DIV. I
Ohio
John E. Moon



DIV. II
Minnesota
Dean Means (2)



DIV. III
Wisconsin
George Pfeilsticker (3)

Post

DIV. I
Post 1114
Indiana
Lenas G. Weishelt (3)

DIV. III
Post 6694
Maryland
Robert P. Bossie (2)

DIV. V
Post 3809
Ohio
Charles R. Moreland

DIV. VII
Post 4061
Colorado
John R. Lewis

DIV. IX
Post 4780
Tennessee
Tony Darnell (3)

DIV. XI
Post 5032
Georgia
J. E. Land (3)

DIV. XIII
Post 7054
Kentucky
Randolph Barron (2)

DIV. XV
Post 8296
Maryland
Ronald L. Hamm (3)

DIV. XVII
Post 5440
Florida
Carl P. Mass

DIV. XIX
Post 10407
Wisconsin
Roland Recker (2)

DIV. II
Post 6506
Maryland
Lester A. Rule (3)

DIV. IV
Post 3383
Ohio
Robert Critchfield

DIV. VI
Post 1970
Tennessee
Ray Covington

DIV. VIII
Post 5394
California
Robert Fontenot (2)

DIV. X
Post 1491
Minnesota
Donald Miller (3)

DIV. XII
Post 7570
Ohio
Virgil Frazier

DIV. XIV
Post 9822
Louisiana
Russell G. Dugas

DIV. XVI
Post 3839
Minnesota
Clarence Fyhriund

DIV. XVIII
Post 6291
Kentucky
Roger Emmert (2)

DIV. XX
Post 3798
Louisiana
Thomas Rigby



DIV. IV
Maryland
Carl N. Thomas (3)



DIV. V
Iowa
W.P. Shannon (3)



DIV. VI
Louisiana
R.V. Martin (3)



DIV. VII
Arizona
Allen F. Kent (3)



DIV. VIII
Maine
Peter F. Miesburger (3)



DIV. IX
Rhode Island
John Sivo (2)



DIV. X
Nevada
Odie Ward (2)



DIV. XI
District of Columbia
Austin J. Smith, Jr. (3)

County Council

DIV. I
Lancaster County Council
Pennsylvania
William K. Risser (3)

DIV. III
Lucas County Council
Ohio
Henry Wetzel

DIV. II
Summit County Council
Ohio
Virgil Neal

DIV. IV
Ottawa County Council
Ohio
George Ritzman (2)

(Number in parentheses indicates number of times Commander has won this honor.)

DIV. I

DIV. I
District 7
Minnesota
Dick Jeppesen (3)

DIV. II
District 6
Minnesota
Harlen Guse (3)

DIV. III
District 14
Maryland
Gene L. Stewart (3)

DIV. IV
District 6
Kansas
A. Lynn Hall (3)

DIV. V
District 11
Michigan
Donald Jensen (3)

DIV VI
District 9
Kansas
Alfred Waters

DIV. VII
District 7
Maryland
John A. McCarthy

DIV. VIII
District 4
Maryland
Norris Alexander (2)

DIV. IX
District 10
Georgia
Fred Bollenberg (2)

DIV. X
District 11
Oklahoma
Jay Johnson

DIV. XI
District 6
Arizona
John Knowles (2)

DIV XII
District 13
Colorado
Bobby L. Knudsen

Century Award 1987-88

The following VFW members have distinguished themselves by qualifying for the Century Award. To be eligible for this award, a member must collect the dues of at least 100 new and/or reinstated members Ray Simmons, Post 9326, Tuckerman, Ark.; Michael J. Salome, Post 3982, Santa Clara, Calif.; Frank E. Allen, Post 2280, Bellevue, Neb., and Frank Neel, Post 5263, Ft. Sill, Okla.

Posts of 1,000 Members or More

Recorded as of December 7, 1987

Post Place No.	Location	Membership												
1	1114 Evansville, IN	3910	27	549	Tucson, AZ	1368	53	283	Kingston, PA	1220	79	4051	Colorado Spg., CO	1093
2	3579 Park Ridge, IL	2256	29	1275	Lima, OH	1367	54	9619	Morningside, MD	1219	80	668	Birmingham, AL	1092
3	628 Sioux Falls, SD	2238	29	6975	Bristol, VA	1360	55	7987	New Port Richey, FL	1211	81	1857	Oklahoma City, OK	1087
4	5555 Richfield, MN	2136	30	6640	Metairie, LA	1358	56	733	Mason City, IA	1199	82	4903	Tucson, AZ	1082
5	6506 Rosedale, MD	2094	31	2503	Omaha, NE	1355	57	2199	Joliet, IL	1189	82	7119	Indianapolis, IN	1082
6	360 Mishawaka, IN	1965	32	2704	South Omaha, NB	1352	58	1000	Independence, MO	1179	84	23	Lebanon, PA	1080
7	1908 Alton, IL	1933	33	1650	Topeka, KS	1342	59	2940	W Seneca, NY	1177	85	2702	Huntsville, AL	1079
8	47 Uniontown, PA	1857	34	5632	St. Louis Park, MN	1310	60	1865	Kenosha, WI	1174	86	53	Jamestown, NY	1076
9	1146 St. Clair Shores, MI	1817	35	6251	Cheektowaga, NY	1291	61	1432	Salina, KS	1171	87	501	Denver, CO	1074
10	131 Lincoln, NE	1765	36	7330	Oakville, CT	1282	62	639	Malden, MA	1169	88	2754	West View, PA	1071
11	49 Mobile, AL	1688	37	8541	San Antonio, TX	1280	63	6694	Dundalk, MD	1167	89	4809	Norfolk, VA	1054
12	1273 Rapid City, SD	1686	38	428	Saint Cloud, MN	1276	63	295	S. St. Paul, MN	1167	90	2346	Saugus, MA	1047
13	1296 Bloomington, MN	1685	39	5263	Fort Sill, OK	1275	65	3851	Carmi, IL	1158	91	5225	W Memphis, AR	1041
14	2539 Gulfport, MS	1622	39	2100	Everett, WA	1275	66	9400	Sunnyslope, AZ	1148	92	9083	Baltimore, MD	1039
15	2290 Manville, NJ	1569	41	1736	Alexandria, LA	1272	67	305	Eau Claire, WI	1140	93	137	Duluth, MN	1038
16	401 Albuquerque, NM	1533	42	112	Wichita, KS	1268	68	6240	Russell, KS	1137	94	1326	Bismarck, ND	1036
17	1064 Huntington, WV	1516	43	2529	Sandusky, OH	1266	69	573	Clarksburg, WV	1132	95	4075	Frankfort, KY	1025
18	969 Tacoma, WA	1505	44	1	Denver, CO	1259	70	3790	Logansport, IN	1129	95	2012	Abilene, TX	1025
19	1079 Elyria, OH	1480	45	1621	Janesville, WI	1257	71	3777	Festus, MO	1121	97	1216	Austin, MN	1022
20	1599 Chambersburg, PA	1475	46	6796	Dallas, TX	1255	72	891	Asheville, NC	1118	98	2743	Norwalk, OH	1017
21	367 Joliet, IL	1437	47	1810	Brentwood, PA	1253	73	1115	Hillsville, VA	1114	99	1120	Indianapolis, IN	1010
22	3382 Kingsport, TN	1427	48	4087	Davison, MI	1248	74	972	Terre Haute, IN	1113	99	7175	Millington, TN	1007
23	1989 Indiana, PA	1417	49	10209	Spring Hill, FL	1245	75	305	Jefferson City, MO	1103	101	9223	Arlington, CA	1006
24	249 Butler, PA	1415	50	6874	Lemon Grove, CA	1241	76	832	S. Portland, ME	1101	101	3838	Cape Girardeau, MO	1006
25	6704 Mechanicsburg, PA	1406	51	641	Columbia, SC	1240	77	1590	Daytona Beach, FL	1097				
26	379 Yakima, WA	1379	52	447	Albert Lea, MN	1235	78	6896	Detroit, MI	1096				

Order of Parade

Standings are based on per capita tax transmittals received at National Headquarters through Nov. 30, 1987.

NATIONAL AVERAGE — 78.11%

1	MINNESOTA	84.85	15	New York	80.11	29	New Jersey	77.29	43	Alaska	72.92
2	Wisconsin	84.81	16	South Dakota	80.10	30	Florida	77.13	44	Panama Canal	72.61
3	Maryland	83.13	17	California	79.82	31	Colorado	77.05	45	Alabama	72.55
4	Louisiana	82.64	18	Missouri	79.70	32	Montana	76.75	46	Tennessee	72.12
5	Maine	82.60	19	Virginia	79.07	33	Delaware	76.44	47	Utah	72.09
6	Michigan	82.23	20	District of Columbia	78.94	34	Idaho	76.30	48	Kentucky	71.87
7	Indiana	81.79	21	North Dakota	78.80	35	Oregon	75.50	49	Hawaii	71.24
8	Iowa	81.41	22	Connecticut	78.78	36	Oklahoma	75.27	50	Texas	71.05
9	Kansas	81.39	23	Massachusetts	78.45	37	Pennsylvania	75.26	51	South Carolina	68.46
10	Nebraska	81.05	24	Wyoming	78.41	38	West Virginia	74.69	52	Pacific Areas	66.18
11	Ohio	80.98	25	New Hampshire	78.19	39	New Mexico	74.38	53	Mississippi	65.44
12	Illinois	80.83	26	Arizona	78.18	40	North Carolina	73.84	54	Europe	54.59
13	Rhode Island	80.54	27	Washington	77.62	41	Arkansas	73.55			
14	Nevada	80.50	28	Vermont	77.30	42	Georgia	73.45			

**National
Aides-de-Camp,
1987-88**

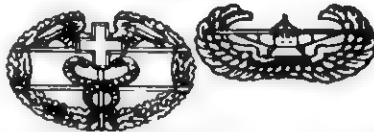
The following VFW members have distinguished themselves by qualifying for the National Aides-de-Camp, Recruiting Class award. To be eligible for this award, a member must collect the dues of at least 50 new and/or reinstated members.

Ray Simmons, Post 9326, Tuckerman, Ark.; Ben Mallinson, and Charley Shoemaker, Post 56, Leavenworth, Kans.; Frank E. Allen, Post 2280, Bellevue, Neb. and Frank Neel, Post 5263, Ft. Sill, Okla.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Airman's Medal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Air Medal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. American Campaign |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. American Defense |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 7. Armed Forces Expeditionary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 8. Armed Forces Reserve |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 9. Army Commendation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 10. Army Good Conduct |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 11. Asiatic-Pacific Campaign |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 12. Bronze Star |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 13. China Service |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 14. Coast Guard Good Conduct |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 15. Distinguished Flying Cross |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 16. European-African-M.E. Campaign |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 17. Korean Service |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 18. Marine Good Conduct |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 19. Navy Commendation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 20. Navy Good Conduct |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 21. Navy & Marine Corp Medal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 22. Navy Unit Commendation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 23. Navy Presidential Unit Cit. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 24. National Defense Service |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 25. Philippine Liberation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 26. Philippines President Unit Cit. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 27. Presidential Unit Citation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 28. Purple Heart |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 29. Rep. Korea Presidential Unit Cit. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 30. Rep. Vietnam Campaign Year Bar |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 31. Silver Star |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 32. United Nations Service |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 33. Vietnam Pres. Unit Cit. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 34. Vietnam Service |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 35. World War II Occupation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 36. World War I Victory |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 37. World War II Victory |

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| <input type="checkbox"/> | Army, Navy & M/C Parachutist | \$5.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Combat Medic | \$5.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Army Gilder | \$5.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | "Please send official chart of 90 ribbons full size and color plus other catalog sheets. I enclose \$2.00." | |

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To get more information on this plan, write VFW Insurance Department, Broadway at 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111 or call toll free 1-800-821-2606. In Missouri, call toll free 1-800-237-1765. In Kansas City, Mo., and environs, call 561-2338. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Central Time, Monday through Friday. ■

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VF 1/88

Good Bed for Burt

A heartwarming story which brings home the true meaning of the VFW reported from Gerlach, Nev., recently is worth sharing with VFW

members.

As in many communities across the U.S., the Labor Day weekend in Gerlach was a festive occasion. Relatives

and friends from near and far were brought together. The center of activity in Gerlach traditionally is VFW Post 10031, which holds its annual barbecue. Most of Gerlach's townspeople help prepare the tasty treat.

Among those at this particular Labor Day celebration were Albert (Burt) Eckhardt and his wife Teresa, Gerlach residents. Burt, a 94-year old World War I veteran, had been a VFW member for many years. Alert for a man his age, but he did suffer physical ailments that kept him confined to a wheelchair.

Present also on this occasion were Department and local VFW officials who learned that Burt's physical disabilities kept him from sleeping comfortably on his standard bed. It was decided that something had to be done.

Donald Mitchell, Department Service Officer; Charles Himes, Quartermaster of Post 10053 and Floyd Michaels, a member of Post 10031, discussed the problem with Burt and his wife. They agreed that a hospital-style bed would provide the relief he needed.

Plans were laid carefully. Quartermaster Himes volunteered to obtain the bed frame. Don Davis, another Post 10031 member, agreed to pick it up in Reno, 100 miles away, and deliver it to the veteran.

All went well until it was discovered that a suitable mattress for the frame was not available. Undiscouraged, Department Service Officer Mitchell approached the chief of prosthetics at the Reno VA Medical Center. Mitchell immediately was assured that a suitable mattress would be provided by the Veterans Administration. Davis made the 200-mile round trip to Reno to pick it up.

Burt had his new bed, and his sleeping problems improved significantly. He died some months later, but he did so having known firsthand what the VFW is all about. He had seen a unified effort by veterans to take care of one of their very own, typical of the VFW. ■

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David Horowitz' Consumer Report Show

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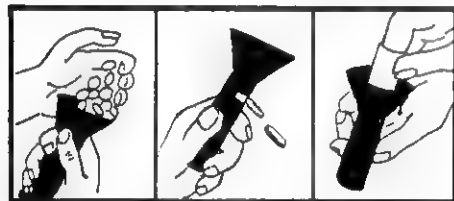
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continued on page 54

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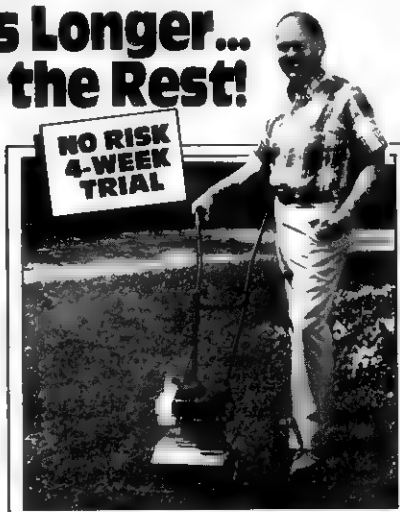
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GENERAL ORDERS

continued from page 53

- Jack Lund, Post 1714, Dodge City, Kans.; Archie Bedford, Post 6654, DeSoto, Kans.; James E. Conley, Post 10017, Ashland, Ky.; Nicholas Bassetti, Post 9083, Baltimore, Md.; Raymond Nowosatko, Post 5120, Detroit, Mich.; Dennis Hogan, Post 4813, Circle, Mont.; Mel Aberg, Post 1094, Yerington, Nev.; James Clemons, Post 8401, Bedford, N.H.; Curtis G. Jackson, Post 1297, Camden, N.J.; Frank P. Durbino, Post 9133, Jacksonville, N.C.; Adam Renner, Post 3444, Dickinson, N.D.; R. F. Sadler, Post 1189, Okmulgee, Okla.; Richard Jacobucci, Post 2396, Cranston, R.I.; Sonny Hendren, Post 4838, Brownsville, Tenn.; George E. Pritchett, Post 3586, Salt Lake City, Utah; Joseph S. Beres, Post 548, Star City, W. Va.; William C. Habermann, Post 2260, Oconomowoc, Wis.; and Ralph E. Norstadt, Post 9439, Casper, Wyo. NATIONAL AIDE-DE CAMP, MEDAL OF HONOR CLASS: William E. Barber, Post 7893, Irvine, Calif.; James H. Howard, Post 10094, Indian Rocks Beach, Fla.; and John C. Morgan, Post 9619, Morningside, Md.
2. Annual members are reminded that their membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States expires Dec. 31, 1987, unless their 1988 dues are paid and reported to Department and National Headquarters. Every effort should be made to renew the membership of continuous members, and also sign up new and reinstated members prior to Jan. 1, 1988.
3. Attention of Post Commanders is directed to the anniversary of Pearl Harbor Day on Dec. 7. Posts should plan programs of suitable observance in commemoration of Pearl Harbor Day (See VFW Ritual).
4. The Annual Washington Conference of Department Commanders and National Officers will be held in Washington, D.C., March 4 - March 8, 1988. The Congressional Dinner will be held on Tuesday evening, March 8, 1988.

5. The 89th National Convention, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, will be held in Chicago, Ill., Aug. 19 - 26, 1988.
6. Post Commanders are reminded that entries for Community Activities Single Outstanding Project recognition may be submitted at any time during the year. This Community Activities National Awards Program is a continuing one, with the panel of judges convening every two months. Details of the program are set forth in the Awards brochure in the Community Activities kit which has been sent to all Post Commanders.
7. Post Commanders are reminded that Jan. 1 is one of the official days when the Flag of the United States is to be displayed by all Americans.
8. Paragraph (d), Section 222 of the National Constitution and By-Laws provides "each" Post shall register, in advance, at least one delegate to the National Convention by the payment of a fee in the amount of six dollars (\$6.00). Posts that did not pay the advance registration fee for the 88th National Convention held in New Orleans, La., are reminded that they are delinquent and in arrears. Any such delinquent Post is directed to pay the late registration fee which is \$8.00 forthwith. Post check should be forwarded to VFW National Headquarters immediately.
9. Attention of all units is directed to the implementation of Resolution No. 434 "The Addition of POW/MIA Streamers to all Post Colors" adopted by the 88th National Convention in New Orleans. The POW/MIA streamers should be ordered from the VFW Emblem and Supply Department. The stock number for the POW/MIA streamer is No. 8418.

10. Certificates of charters evidencing consolidation have been issued to the following Posts: Posts 4045 and 5967 consolidated as Post No. 4045, Cincinnati, Ohio; Posts 7126 and 829 consolidated as Post No. 7126, Alden, Mich.; Posts 8615 and 1387 consolidated as Post No. 8615, Long Beach, Calif.; and Posts 10506, 7382 and 9623 consolidated as Post No. 10506, West Berlin, Germany.
11. Announcement is made of a change of location for the following Post: Post 8950 from Linwood to Kawkawlin, Mich.
12. Charters for the following Posts have been authorized: Post No. 59, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Post No. 1169, Yonkers, N.Y.; Post No. 2068, Baldwin City, Kans.; Post No. 2249, Griggsville, Ill.; Post No. 2682, Knoxville, Ill.; Post No. 3062, Seekonk-Rehoboth, Mass.; Post No. 3512, Edgerton, Ohio; Post No. 3521, Vienna, Ohio; Post No. 3598, Cedarville, Ohio; Post No. 4081, Three Rivers, Mich.; Post No. 4255, Fitzgerald, Ga.; Post No. 4505, Tryon, N.C.; Post No. 4542, Spring Lake, N.C.; Post No. 5042, Kansas City, Mo.; Post No. 5152, Kansas City, Mo.; Post No. 5583, Coalton, W. Va.; Post No. 6220, Greenwood, Wis.; Post No. 7111, Dobson, N.C.; Post No. 7711, Clayton, N.C.; Post No. 7777, Pinetops, N.C.; Post No. 9331, Topsfield, Mass.; Post No. 9352, Constantine, Mich.; Post No. 9905, Crete, Ill.; Post No. 9961, Bourbonnais, Ill.; Post No. 9964, Sparta, Ill.; and Post No. 9976, Mahomet, Ill.

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Commander-in-Chief

OFFICIAL
Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr.
Adjutant General

CLAIMS

Readers are urged to help these veterans seeking claim substantiation statements. Respond directly to the person listed at the end of the claim assistance request.

If you have need of assistance in preparing a claim, contact your local VFW Service officer. They are located at VA medical centers and regional offices.

361st TEWS (Phu Cat, Oct. 68-Sept. 70)—Seeking anyone who can supply information on the spraying of Agent Orange in Vietnam—Ava Knock, 307 Spruce, O'Fallon IL 62269.

K-4-12 (Camp Carroll (RVN) 1967)—Seeking Dennis Eichman, Oregon, and Richard Costanza, Chicago, or anyone knowing their whereabouts—Rex A. Forcht, Box 341, Dongola IL 62926.

9th Engr. Bn. "C" Co. (Bldg. 315) Force Troops, Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic Camp Lejeune, NC—Seeking anyone who remembers Ben Arthur when he hit his head on the rack in 12/67 or 1/68—Benjamin B. Arthur, Sr., 910 Cashmere St., Wenatchee WA 98801.

USS Dixie (AO-14) Aug., 1943 in South Pacific—Seeking Chief Gunner's Mate Rudowski and two corpsmen in the sick bay at the time—Leo R. Remedies, R 1, Box 17230, Benton LA 71006.

USS Mobile, CL-83 (WWII)—Seeking David C. Mullen, Greentown IN; O.B. Lindsay, Sidney OH; Elmer Parsons, Stoughton MA; Kurt Jamison MN, or anyone else who remembers we were in Sasebo and Nagasaki, Japan between Sept. and Dec., 1945—William Scheffel, Rt. 1, Ralston OK 74650.

USS Hancock (CVA-19) 3rd Div.—Seeking Alfonso Martinez, R.W. Sutton, W.R. Jones, R.M. Moran, T.M. Eichhorn, W.H. Morrison—Carl M. Tanner, 750 So. 650 West #35, Provo UT 84601.

USS Springfield, CL-66 (Feb., 1945-Feb., 1946)—Seeking anyone on USS Springfield when bomb was dropped on Hiroshima—Finas Joe Brooks, R 2, Box 947, Creal Springs IL.

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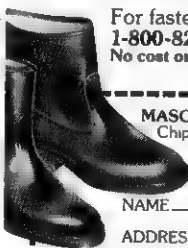
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USS Bairoko (CVE-115) April-May, 1948—Seeking crewmen in Sandstone Atomic Test series—Curtis Blair, Rt. 3, Box 72, Piggott AR 72454.

USS Orlean ASN-5 (1945-1946)—Seeking Pharmacist Mate First Evyle and anyone witnessing me having a seizure after falling off bell boom—Thomas H. Wolfe, 614 South Lehigh St., Baltimore MD 21224.

Brunswick Naval Air Station (1951-1952)—Seeking Charles (Chuck) Hall—M.S. Pierson, Box 213, Rte. 1, East Corinth UT 05040.

USS Starlight (AP175) (1944-1945)—Seeking Martin Henderson, Los Angeles, Ensign McCall, FL, Ensign Mossi, NY; Ensign Pearl, NY; Joe Valencia, NY, and Galbreth, Glendale CA—Clyde M. Olafson, 758 Cooper Ave., #1, Yuba City CA 95891.

USS LCI (L-579) June, 1945—Seeking William (Bill) Drye—Robert McGhee, Box 469, Duchesne UT 84021.

USS Bainard (DD-706) (Japan, 1945)—Seeking fellow crew members who went into Hiroshima in fall of 1945—Charles M. Douglas, 8 Dickson Lane, Baraboursville VA 25504.

USS Rodman (DMS-21)—Seeking Francisco Hernandez, Laredo TX; Albert Babick, PA, and Billy Inlow—Robert Adkins, Meadow Creek W VA 25977.

SS Cape Neddick, South Pacific Gun Crews—Seeking anyone who remembers me, especially Herick, PA; Albert Babick, PA; John F. Pinson, Dallas, and Holland, Seattle WA—Robert Adkins, Meadow Creek, W VA 25977.

101st Abn., 1st Brigade, 501st Sig., Vietnam 1965-67—Seeking Capt. Duncan, Anderson and Lt. Ricci—Cleveland Higgs, RR 1, Box 224A, Altamont IL 62411.

2nd AF Rebel Depot, Scotts Bluff NE (1943)—Seeking Sgt. Appleyard, Cpt. Petterson, Charlie Bunch, E.L. Wilson and Pvt. Butts—Oakie Shelton, 329 E-NE, Ardmore OK 73401.

"Amchitka" Outreach Aleutian Chain (Sept. 1948-Dec. 1948)—Seeking Hughs or C. Rizzo or anyone—only 11 men on island—Vincent Tozzo, 224 E. 14th St., Hialeah FL 33010.

42173 Aero Sp. Gnd. Eqp. Rpr. Tch., McConnell AFB, Wichita KS (1951-1966)—Seeking anyone stationed on Johnston or Sand Island in the Pacific in the early 1950s who has cancer or ionized radiation injury—Mary F. Cole, 145 David R., Huntsville AL 35811.

Kimpo K-14 Korea, 5th Mil., 191 BS (1948-1953)—Seeking someone that knows me, or in the same camp, #5 Pyok-Dong Korea—Jerome Terlitzy, 1034 Court St., Reading PA 19601.

USS Cambria (Aug.-Oct. 1945)—Seeking crew members sent ashore at Nagasaki shortly after Atomic bomb was dropped—E.A. Staniford, 11124 E. 138th St. N., Collinsville OK 74021.

310th Ferrying Sqdn. (England—1943-Oct. 1944)—Seeking First Sgt. Gary, Snyder TX, or any veteran who remembers back injury suffered by Jerome Navjar from a plane crash in England, Sept., 1944—Bill Platt, Cmdr., DAV, PO Box 3681, San Angelo TX 76902.

825th Tank Destroyer Bn., Co. C. Germany/Belgium, Dec. 1944, Battle of the Bulge—Seeking anyone to substantiate combat wounds—James F. Minuand, PO Box 312, Andalusia AL 36420.

756th Tank Bn., Co. A (WWII 1941-1945)—Seeking former members who remember Pvt. James L. Harris, esp. T/Sgt. Gerald T. Hennings, Pvt. Burton B. Roberts, Col. Ben Harrell, and Lt. Col. Glenn F. Rogers—Gary Schone, 2568 E. Baseline, #304, Highland CA 92346.

116th Inf. Reg., 29th Inf. Div. on Thanksgiving Day, 1944—Seeking Capt. Courvasier (110th or 111th Field Atty) and Capt. Good (Co. Cmdr. H Co. of the 116th Inf. Reg.)—James F. Reid, Rte. 3, Box 380, Cullman AL 35055.

2nd Bn., 5th Army, 1st Cav. Div., B Co. Base Camp (1966-1967)—Seeking anyone who remembers me as Co. RTO & Bat. RTO, esp. Ron Ernst—Gary L. Hubler, Box 180A, RR 3, Tipton IA 52772.

USS Navy Shore Patrol (Hawaii 1944)—Seeking James Flynn or anyone remembering my being shot and hospitalized at Aiea Heights Hospital—Al Hansen, 720 NW 5th St., Corvallis OR 97330.

USS Benner DD807—Seeking anyone aboard on last Orient tour and San Diego, Dec., 1947-Mar., 1948—John B. Mitchell, PO Box 626, San Clemente CA 92672.

REUNIONS

Reunion announcements are published as a cost-free service to VFW members in good standing. To ensure timely inclusion of your announcement, all information pertaining to the event must arrive in VFW Magazine offices six months prior to the reunion. Reunion announcement forms must be used and can be obtained by writing VFW Magazine, Reunions, 34th and Broadway, Kansas City MO 64111. Publication is limited to one time per calendar year.

AIR FORCE

2d Combat Cargo Sqdn. (CBI, WWII)—Sept., 1988—Joe Couture, 159 E. Amber, San Antonio TX 78221.

2d Ferrying Grp., Air Transport Command (WWII)—April, South Padre Island TX—Ray Kuhlman, 7 Springwood Lane, Kinston NC 28501.

27 Air Depot Grp. and attached units (WWII) New Guinea—June, Dayton OH—Lou Kaczmarek, 314 Harwood Dr., Franklin OH 45005.

71st Ftr. Sqdn., 1st Ftr. Grp. (WWII)—Sept., Dayton OH—Gene Pillard, 109 Leewood Dr., Arkadelphia AR 71923.

73rd Bomb Wing (WWII)—May, Orlando—Glenn McClure, 73rd Bomb Wing Assn., 105 Circle Dr., Universal City TX 78148.

75th Air Police Sqdn. (Texas, Korea, Japan, 1952-56)—Kenneth M. Brunmeier, PO Box 181, Onida SD 57564.

82nd Cmbt. Scpy. Pol. Wg.—Aug., Denver—Carey Stark, 7601 E. Toronto St., Tucson AZ 85730.

314th Ftr. Sqdn. & 324th Ftr. Grp. HQ (WWII)—May, Dayton OH—Eugene Rouse, 122 Sheraton Rd., Syracuse NY 13219.

314th Trp. Carrier Sqdn.—May, Colorado Springs—Bernie D. Carmin, PO Box 44, Marion IN 46952.

328th Comm./Recon. Co. (Bad Aibling, Germany, 1952-55)—1988—John Arndt, Rt. 1, Box 1514, Danielsville, GA 30633.

367th Bomb. Grp. (M), 556th Bomb. Sqdn.—Oct., Orlando—Paul R. Priday, 7755 Harriott Rd., Plain City OH 43064.

7030th Ops./Field Maint. Sqdn.—Noel W. Houser, 322 W. Arbor Vitae St., Ingleswood CA 90301.

OCS Class 48A—June—Andy Hudak, 4331 Old Dominion Rd., Orlando FL 32812.

Pilot School, Class 48-C—Oct., San Antonio—Michael Loyd, 62 Lakeview Dr., Daly City CA 94015.

ALL BRANCHES

5th Dist. Pearl Harbor Survivors Assn. Inc.—June, Rockford IL—O.W. (Bill) Foster, 413 Robert Ave., Rockford IL 61107.

China-Burma-India Veterans Assn.—July, Denver—Kay Haisch, 4820 So. Huron St., Englewood CO 80110.

McCook Airbase Historical Society—Sept., McCook NB—Albert E. White, 605 W. 1st St., P.O. Box B-29, McCook NB 69001-0029.

San Francisco Port of Embarkation APO—June, Tulsa—Max A. Doty, 5255 South Irvington Place, Tulsa OK 74135.

ARMY

1st Cav. Div., 2/5 Cav., B Trp.—Gary L. Hubler, Box 180A, RR 3, Tipton IA 52772.

1st Div., 28th Inf., Co. K—June, Bedford PA—Ed Russell, Rte. 3, Box 2E, Strasburg VA 22657.

1st Gen. Hosp. (Ft. Meade, Maryland or North Mimms, England 1943 or 1944)—Joseph Varlato, 320 S. Beltinger St., Herkimer NY 13350.

2d Armd. Div., 17th Engr. Bn., Co A—May, Eureka Springs AR—Willard Curtis, 110 S. Revena Blvd., Ann Arbor MI 48103.

IV and XI Corps Arty., HQ. Btry. (WWII)—June, Las Vegas—Jim Robertson, Box 4935, Canyon Lake CA 92380.

5th Inf. Div., 10th Inf. Rgt., Co. A—June, Columbus OH—Sanford (Gene) Highsmith, RR 1, Box 148A, Perceton IN 46562.

8th Inf. Div., 8th MP Co. (1956-1958)—Oct., Camarillo CA—Harold Hillier, 10185 Churchman Lane, Camarillo CA 93010.

9th Armd. Div. (WWII)—May, Louisville, SASE—Vern Reaugh, PO Box 3467, Hampton VA 23663.

11th Engr. (WWII)—Bushkill PA—A.B. Harward, 523 College Dr., Raeford NC 28376.

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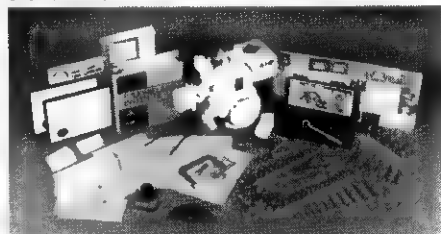
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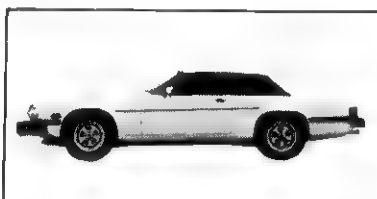
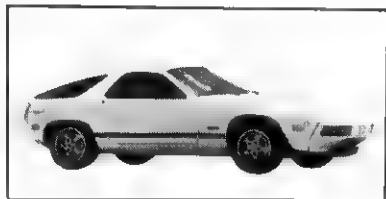
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continued on page 56

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REUNIONS

continued from page 55

13th Armd. Div., 24th Tank Bn. (WWII)—Sept., Denver—Galen W. Krieg, 110 S.W. 4th St., Newton KS 67114.

20th Armd. Div., 8th Tank Bn., Co. A—George Reeves, RR 1, Box 230, Towanda IL 61776.

25th Div., 7/11 Arty. Btry. C—Aug., Colorado Springs—RamJet, 429 - 18 1/2 Ave. S.W., Rochester MN 55902.

33d Div., 136th Inf., Co. A—May, Fort Wayne IN—Lyle (Cub) Powers, 202 South Seventh St., Brighton MI 48116.

34th CA (AAA) Bde., HQ Btry.—Richard A. Willard, PO Box 1544, Batavia NY 14020.

35th Combat Engrs. (WWII)—Oct., Portland—Norval V. Cummings, R. #1, Seymour IN 47274.

40th Cav. Recon. Trp. (WWII)—Aug., Dayton OH—Edward H. Hunt, PO Box 68, Covington GA 30209.

40th Div., 180th Inf., Co. A—Sept., Dallas—Franklin J. Kempf, 6083 Hwy. 60 E., Hartford WI 53027.

44th Div., HQ & HQ Co., Sp. Ptn. (WWII)—June—Edward J. Balut, 17 Morrissee Ave., Wallington NJ 07057.

48th Gen. Hosp. Unit (WWII)—Oct., Ft. Lauderdale—Frances (Krugel) Rogers, P.O. Box 288, Marshfield MA 02050.

71st Inf. Div. Assn.—Sept., Kansas City MO—William N. Kasson, 14801 Grapeland Ave., Cleveland OH 44111.

73rd AAA Bn. SP—Aug., Boston—Stephen Cybulski, 31 Lamprey River Park, Newmarket NH 03857.

74th CA (AA), 886th AW Bn.—May, Fort Monroe VA—Fred Brooks, 2000 Wilhelm Ave., Baltimore MD 21237.

85th Div., 338th Inf. Co. E—Aug., Angola IN—Paul Scharpenberg, RR 2, Box 439, Angola IN 46703.

92nd Sig. Bn., Co. B (WWII)—May, Nashville—Larry Orechia, RD #4, 2654 Arcade Rd., Norwalk OH 44857.

93d AA Bn., Btry. B—May, Las Vegas—Ray Gilbert, 4768 N. 39th St., Milwaukee WI 53209.

94th Med. Gas Treatment Bn.—Aug., Indianapolis—James E. Anderson, 552 Conner Creek Dr., Noblesville IN 46060.

97th Inf. Div. Arty., HQ Btry.—Sept., Glen Burnie MD—Charles A. Sturm, Sr., 300 Halle Ave., Baltimore MD 21225.

99th Inf. Div. Assn.—June, Atlanta—Joe Forrester, PO Box 7393, Athens GA 30604.

100th Inf. Div. Assn. (Fla. Chap.) (WWII)—April-May, DeLand FL—Hugh Creveling, 92 Ventura Dr., Dunedin FL 33528.

103d Div., 382d FA Bn., Btry. C—June, Battle Creek MI—Harry E. Smith, 149 Minges Circle, Battle Creek MI 49015.

103d Div., 384th FA Bn., HQ Btry.—April-May, Frankenthum MI—Redman Rock, 12055 Shenandoah Dr., South Lyon MI 48178.

104th Chem. Proc. Co.—Allan M. Nieminen, 4775 Booth Rd., Oxford OH 45056.

134th Inf. Assn.—Aug., Omaha—R.L. Fowler, 1619 N. 50th St., Omaha NE 68104.

143d AAA Gun Bn.—July, Hooker OH—Harry Lane, 7291 Alspach Rd., Lancaster OH 43130.

144th Inf., Co. B—Sept., Garrison TX—Alford L. Hudgins, Rt. 1, Box 126B, Daingerfield TX 75638.

166th FA Rgt., 838th FA Bn., Btry. B—1988—Thomas M. McKinley, Box 73, St. Elmo Rd., Walkkill NY 12589.

170th Combat Engr., Cos. A, B, C & HQ—Sept., Des Moines IA—Bill Long, 914 W. Summit, Crescent IA 50812.

199th Lt. Inf. Bde., 2/3d Inf., A Co. (RVN)—July, 1988—Gordon Labat, RR 1, Box 117, Goodwin SD 57238.

202 Engr. Combat Bn., Co. C (WWII)—July, Charleston—Joseph M. Zegeer, 18 9th Ave., S. Charleston W VA 25303.

203d FA Bn.—James J. Lynch, 1646 Oakhurst St., Pittsburgh PA 15210.

214th CAAA (WWII)—Aug., Gainesville GA—Gene L. Hodges, 2549 Emerald Dr., Jonesboro GA 30236 5229.

243d Sig. Ops. Co.—May, Hot Springs—Ralph Foster, 901 E. 7th, Stuttgart AR 72160.

255th FA Bn. (WWII)—Sept., Ft. Mitchell KY—Marvin M. George, 1172 Garber Place, San Jose CA 95127.

273rd QM Bakery Co. (Camp Ellis IL, Saipan)—Raymond E. Allen, 12 Whittier St., Dover NH 03820.

281st Combat Engr. Bn. (WWII)—Aug., New Orleans—E.G. Jeffreys, P.O. Box 66227, Mobile AL 36660.

353rd Eng. Const. Rgt., 1393rd Eng. Const. Bn. & 1177th Eng. Const. Grp.—Sept., 1988—Reunion Committee, PO Box 46-429, Lincolnwood IL 60646-0429.

371st Engr. Const. Bn.—June, Nashville—Ernest M. Lanci, 13167 Jobin St., Southgate MI 48195.
373rd FA Bn. Assn.—April-May, Downingtown PA—Frank G. Andros, PO Box 55, Hyde Park NY 12538.
385th AAA Bn. (WWII)—June, Myrtle Beach SC—Douglass C. Cochran, 420 Belvedere Rd., Hagerstown MD 21740.

408th Antitank Co.—June, St. Petersburg FL—John Dvoran, 5101 - 23rd Ave. N., St. Petersburg FL 33710.
482nd AAA Aw. Bn.—Aug., Chicago—Robert Bennett, 530 E. 20 St., New York NY 10009.
487th AAA AW Bn., Btry. B—May, St. Louis—Charles Bach, 4462 Rock Creek Valley Rd., House Springs MO 63051.

509th Ord. Co. HM (FA)—July, Milwaukee—Elmer J. Quint, 3506 S. 68th St., Milwaukee WI 53220.

513th Engr. Lt. Pontoon Co.—Aug., Meridian MS—Icem E. Chaney, 607 County Line St., Union MS 39365.

632nd TB Bn., Co. A—May, Cape May NJ—Anthony Kubiak, 215 Grant St., Cape May NJ 08204.

638th TD Bn.—Aug., Aurora NE—Tom Sherman, Box 129, Marquette NE 68854.

654th Engr. Topo Bn.—July, Zanesville OH—Clarence J. Mansfield, 1150 Richvale Rd., Zanesville OH 43701.

722nd Engr. Depot Co. (WWII)—Sept., Niagara Falls—William J. Szabo, 626 - 80th St., Niagara Falls NY 14304.

744th RQB—June, Oakbrook IL—Joseph Kalafut, 4839 24th Place, Chicago IL 60650.

750th RQB—Sept., Indianapolis—Richard D. Campbell, PO Box 274, Trenton MO 64683.

757th Tank Bn.—Sept., St. Louis—Opal Adams, 9719 Grantview, St. Louis MO 63123.

775th Tank Bn. (WWII)—Sept., Mt. Airy Lodge PA—Joseph L. Izzo, 383 Lockwood Dr., No. Shirley NY 11867.

779th AAA AW Bn., Btry. C—North Adams MA—Vincent Busbee, Manchester VT.

783rd MP Bn. (1945-48 Nuremberg Germany)—Art Sherokow, Rt. 1, Box 196C, Parsons TN 38363.

803rd TD Bn.—May, Reno—Louie Frinchi, 5315-104th St. SW, Tacoma WA 98499.

817th TD Bn.—June, Erie PA—Carley Rex Halsey, RD 4, Box 168A, Centerville PA 16804.

1000th Engr. Tdwg. Brg. Co.—Sept., Las Vegas—Louis Ferraco, 502 School House Lane, Willow Grove PA 19090.

3408th Ord. MAM Co. (Formerly 88th QM)—June, Elkhart IN—Kenneth Burke, 2210 Wood St., Elkhart IN 46516.

3584th QM Trk. Co.—June, Murray KY—William R. RFD #1, Beech Grove AR 72412.

Indiana Army Recruiters, Indianapolis Dist.—June, Indianapolis—Marion M. Eveland, Jr., Box 132, Tower Rd., Brazil IN 47834.

North Atlantic AACB—Nov., Orlando—Richard Vezina, 123 Ridge Park Ave., Stamford CT 06905.

Tank Destroyer OCS #54 (All grades, War. 1944)—Frank R. McKain, 536 Lee Court, W. Melbourne FL 32904.

War Dog Det.-CNI—July, Ft. Robinson NB—Dick Zika, 12493 W. Outer Dr., Detroit MI 48223.

COAST GUARD

Bering Sea Patrol Vet. Assn.—Sept., Portland OR—Lyle G. Cole, 3706 N. Baldwin, Portland OR 97217.

USCG Ingham—Sept., New London CT—R.M. Carter, 1061 Woodview Dr., Flint MI 48507.

USS Spencer, C.G. Assn.—Sept., Portland ME—C. Mike Hall, PO Box 845, Sanford ME 04073.

MARINES

1st Bn., 3d Marines—June, Gettysburg PA—Bob Snyder, 2160 Hanover Rd., Gettysburg PA 17325.

Marine Assault Air Warning Squadron (AWS-5)—Murray J. Sklar, 29 Hillside Terr., Livingston NJ 07039.

FLS-8 (Chu Lai/Dong Ha) 1966-67—August, St. Louis—Richard R. Lucero, Jr., 5591 Danny St. Cypress CA 90630.

VMB 613—June, Norfolk VA—Robert E. P. Cherry, 1041 So. Oakwood Ave., Geneseo IL 61254.

continued on page 58

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REUNIONS

continued from page 57

NAVY

87th NCB (WWII)—June, Louisville—Laurence Terry, 5307 Maryman Rd., Louisville KY 40258.

90th NCB—Oct., Sacramento—H.W. Schweitzer, 13123 N. 21st Ave., Phoenix AZ 85029

CASU 12 (Guam, 1944-45)—Gordon Hurst, 6409 Oakbrook, Corpus Christi TX 78413.

115th NCB (WWII)—July, Medford OR—Edward Plummer, 5023 E. Naomi, Indianapolis IN 46203.

Armed Guards (WWII)—June, Toledo OH—Leonard Carlson, 5894 N. St. Albans, Shoreview MN 55126.

AMCB-16—June, Omaha—J.R. Anderson, RR 2, Lot 38, Horseshoe Lake, Ashland NE 68003.

Submarine Rescue Vessels—Norfolk VA—A.J. Polson, 1500 3rd Ave., #33, Chula Vista CA 92011.

USS Alaska (CB-1)—June, Nashville—Charles S. St. George, 25 Leon Place, Fredonia NY 14063.

USS Allagash (AO97) (1952-56)—John R. Baker, 138 W. Elm St., Wayland MI 48348.

USS Aaron Ward (DD-483)—April, Philadelphia—Thomas E. McGinnis, 408 Fairview Ave., Lancaster PA 17603.

USS Augusta (CA-31)—May, Seattle—E.L. Dixon, 1075-275, Space Pkwy., Mt. View CA 94043.

USS Belleau Wood (CVL-24)—May, Charleston SC—Robert L. Ross, 2732 S. US Hwy. 23, Oscoda MI 48750.

USS Boston (CA-69/CAB-1/SSN-703)—Aug., Lowell MA—USS Boston Reunion, PO Box 816, Amherst NH 03031.

USS Bremerton (CA-130)—Oct., 1989, Long Beach—R.F. Polanowski, RD #1, Belfast NY 14711.

USS Brush (DD-745)—Sept., Baton Rouge LA—Quenton Miller, 309 Fayette Davis Ave., Cleveland MS 38732.

USS Bunker Hill (CV-17: WWII) (CB-82) & Air Groups—Aug., Bloomington MN—Ted Pauling, PO Box 305, Red Lake Falls MN 56750.

USS Burlington (PA-85) (WWII)—Oct., Lancaster PA—Carl H. Bell, 1470 Cranbrook Dr., Hermitage PA 16148.

USS Card (CVE-11) & VC-1-B-8-12-55—Sept., Baltimore—Joe Macchia, 8290 Melrose Rd., Melrose FL 32666.

USS Chantrelour (AV-10) (WWII)—Sept., Vicksburg MS—Kenneth E. Boyd, Rt. 4, Box 145, Culpepper VA 22701.

USS Cotton (DD-589)—Aug., Louisville—Walter Shollmier, 1828 Parnassus, Memphis TN 38108.

USS Dennis J. Buckley (DD/BDR-908)—April, Charleston SC—Harold W. Ferguson, 1604 Bert Dr., Wichita Falls TX 76302.

USS Eldorado (ACG-11)—Sept., Colorado Springs—Robert Persichitti, 903 S. Lincoln Rd., East Rochester NY 14445.

USS FDR—May, Corpus Christi—John P. Lyons, 4213 Harry St., Corpus Christi TX 78412.

USS Gayot (AM-239)—September, Omaha—Bud Zeckner, 5007 W. 63rd Terr., Prairie Village KS 66208.

USS Guadalcanal (WWII) Catapult Crew—Danny Turner, 4800 Auburn-Folsom Rd., Loomis CA 95650.

USS Halford (DD-480)—April, San Diego—R.G. Williams, 7345 50th Ave. N.E., Seattle WA 98115.

USS Hudson (DD-475) (WWII)—Curtis R. Williams, 690 Brunswick Dr., Enon OH 45323.

USS Hunt (DD-674)—Alfred W. Bailey, 85 Van Liew, Milltown NJ 08850.

USS Ingersoll (DD-652/690)—July, Seattle—Charles D. Bass, 560 Cypress Lane, St. Marys GA 31568.

USS Isherwood (DD-520) Assn.—June, Louisville—T.D. Austin, 3714 39th St., Lubbock TX 79413.

USS John D. Henley (DD-553)—April May, Atlantic City—Joe Murphy, 36 Kentucky Ave., Villas NJ 08251.

USS John W. Weeks (DD-701)—Sept., Downingtown PA—Hal Gross, 29 Shoreview Dr., Yonkers NY 10710.

USS Joseph Orlick (DD-898)—Phil Klotz, PO Box 208, Leavenworth KS 66048.

USS Kaimia (ATO-23)—Feb., San Diego—John W. Brannin, 8538 Harwell, San Diego CA 92119.

USS Laurens (APA-153)—May, St. Louis—Robert Waskow, 2920 43rd St., Two Rivers WI 54241-1212.

USS LCI (L) 445—May, San Francisco—Bob Stover, 301 Lennon Lane, Walnut Creek CA 94598-9280.

USS LCS (L) 10—Oct., St. Louis MO—Dale Quigley, 150 Westgate Circle, Santa Rosa CA 95401.

USS Leadstown (APA-56) Amphibious Div.—R.E. Larkin, P.O. Box 7823, Longview TX 75607.

USS Long Island (AFG-1)—Dick Wisch, 1333 Ruger Ave., Janesville WI 53545.

USS LST 496—June, Lexington KY—L.W. Brown, P.O. Box 26, Starkville MS 39769.

USS LST 691 (WWII)—May, Norfolk—E.K. Jefferson, 1908 Burks St., Petersburg VA 23803.

USS LST 752—Francis Elsen, 2918 Robinhood Dr., LaCrosse WI 54601.

USS LST 957—June, St. Louis—Don R. King, 1629 Highridge Ct., Columbia MO 65201.

USS LST 1091—Aug., Traverse City MI—Lloyd G. Smith, 135 S. Valley Dr., Prudenville MI 48851.

USS Madison (DD-425) (WWII)—Sept., Wildwood Crest NJ—Richard J. Stier, 85 Fernelius Ave., Clifton NJ 07013-1846.

USS Major (DE-796)—Oct., San Diego—Bob Young, PO Box 251, Gardena CA 90247.

USS Manchester (CL-53)—Sept.—Frank E. Helfenberger, 13340 - 19th Ave. N.E., Seattle WA 98125-4115.

USS Monrovia (APA-31)—Sept., Sacramento CA—Francis Drummond, 1316 Charleston Ave., Apt. 200, Mattoon IL 61938.

USS Onizuka (APA-221) (WWII)—Sept., Oxnard CA—D.E. Orr, PO Box 714, Somis CA 93066.

USS Orion (AS-18)—Oct., CA—Del Catron, 14732 Van Buren, Midway City CA 92655.

USS Porter (DD-900)—Sept., Omaha—Alan E. Jenkins, 340 Andover Blvd. N.E., Anoka MN 55304.

USS Raleigh (CL-7)—May, St. Louis—Kenneth L. Volkart, Rt. 1, Box 88A, Barnett MO 65011.

USS Ranger (CV-4)—Aug., San Mateo CA—George Pyle, 8629 Oakleigh Rd., Baltimore MD 21234.

USS Rawlins (PA-226)—B.G. Winn, 1345 No. Genesee, Los Angeles CA 90046.

USS Redfin (SS-272)—Aug., Manitowoc WI—Steve Petreshock, 1418 Columbus St., Manitowoc WI 54220.

USS San Saba (APA-232)—Aug., Denver—E.C. Polhemus, 2220 S. Wolff, Denver CO 80219.

USS (SC-1019)—George Gorman, 3536 Wallace Dr., Pittsburgh PA 15227.

USS Schroeder (DD-501)—June, Albany MO—Pat Haffey, R.R. #1, Box 32, New Hampton MO 64471.

USS Sheridan (APA-51) (WWII)—June, Virginia—Gerald L. Blencowe, 715 Rockland Ave., Charlottesville VA 22901.

USS Stribling (DD-667)—April, Norfolk—Ed Burris, R.D. #1, Box 27, Tidjoute PA 16351.

USS Swanson (DD-443)—May, Chattanooga TN—Claude B. Harrison, P.O. Box 472-Wren, Trenton GA 30752.

USS Tangier (AV-8)—June, Seattle—L.G. Carroll, 17509 118th Ave. SE, #C-10, Renton WA 98055.

USS Ticonderoga (CG-47)—May, Tampa—Elton L. Whitney, 1012 Eighth Way, New Port Richey FL 34652.

USS Wm. G. Miller (DE-256)—Sept., Parkersburg W VA—Haldor E. Gustafson, 1403 Kenwood Ave., Duluth MN 55811.

USS Wyffels (DE-6)—May, Williamsburg VA—Jack Flynn, 8213 So. Albany Ave., Chicago IL 60652.

VF-194/VA-196—Ed Beare, 224 Marilee Dr., New Lebanon OH 45345.

VF/VPS 44 (1943-45)—Sept., Minneapolis—L.E. Lowinske, 323 North Garden, New Ulm MN 56073.

SEEKING

The Seeking column is published on a first-come first-served basis. Submission forms are available from VFW Magazine, Seeking, 406 W. 34 St., Kansas City MO 64111.

28th Div., 112th Sgt., Co. K.—Seeking Walter Vermillion, Frank Jennings, George Lund & Carlyle Spreeman—Thomas Nongueskwa, 14098 Turner Rd., De Witt MI 48820.

349th, 349th, 350th & 351st Air Borne Sqds., 4th Combat Cargo Gp., [China Burma India Theater, 1944-1966]—Reunion?—John Nicholas, R#2, Box 204, Marmaduke AR 72443.

continued on page 60



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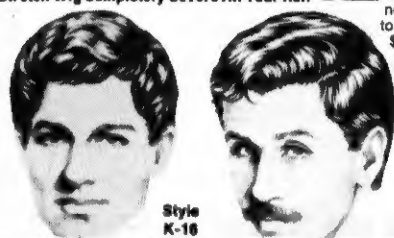
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SEEKING

continued from page 59

292nd JASCO—Seeking Richard E. Remington—
 William Brawn, Belfast Rd., Box 3020, Camden ME
 04843.

Casarat Italy Palace, (1944-45)—Seeking former mem-
 bers—Forrest Killam, 924 Lochlond, Bakersfield
 CA 93304.

**Rev. 56 Fleet Hosp. No. 108 or Mob 8 Hosp., (Guada-
 canal)**—Seeking Ralph Levin & Angelo Vignari—
 Roger Cady, 604 Hillcrest Dr., Minot ND 58701.

**Sampson NTC, Choir Co., 6 Unit, Co. 518, (Sept.-Oct.,
 1943)**—Seeking Ben Chidester who lived in Auburn
 NY—Calvin Chamberlain, RD1, Box 24, Meshoppen
 PA 18630.

7th FA Obsn. Bn., (WWII)—Reunion?—Charles Wells,
 622 Leander St., Shelby NC 28150.

82nd AB Div., 307th AB Med. Bn., AMB. Co.—Seeking
 Raymond Gill—Edward Lester Deal, 725 W. Cholla
 Dr., Casa Grande AAQZ 85222.

3112th Sig. Co., (July 6, 1944, Omaha Beach)—Seeking
 anyone with information about Daniel Clawson—
 Kenneth Clawson, PO Box 5361, Mesa AZ 85201.

3rd Army, 250th QM Depot Co.—Reunion?—Walter
 Roethe, 12 Gilmore Lake, Columbia IL 62236.

Vietnam Helicopter Crew Members Assn.—Seeking
 all crew members to join this organization—George
 Ecker, 201 Apache St., Huachuca City AZ 85616.

612th Port Co., Co. A., 489th Port Bn.—Seeking Bob
 Fragg & Alex Woznicz—C. Fredericks, 3535 W. 72nd
 Pl., Chicago IL 60629.

10th Armored Div., 90th Cav. Recon. Sqdn., Trp. D.—
 Seeking Edward Brooks or William Brooks—Trixie
 Everett, 2845 Broadway, #307, Boulder CO 80302.

USS Motive (AM-102), (Pacific Theater, WWII)—Seeking
 Carroll, John Warren, Noell & Harry Owin—
 Edward Clifford, Rt. 3, Box 226AA, Schulenburg TX
 78956.

70th Div., 276th Inf., Co. M.—Seeking Lt. Cale Merrill &
 Cpl. Ralph Parsley—Buford Matlock, 52 Rolling Hills
 Dr., Jackson TN 38305.

USS Metivier (DE-582)—Reunion?—Dick MacDonald,
 Box 582, Malden MA 02148.

USS Spectacle (AM-305)—Reunion?—Clarence Lan-
 dry, Box 205-O Sandy Pines Trailer Park, East
 Montpelier VT 05651.

1st Div., FA, (1951 Football Champions)—Seeking team
 mates—Hal Noble, 4797 Mark Lee Rd., Mariposa CA
 95338.

**USS Tripoli (CVE-64), A, B, E or M Div., (Feb., 1944-Sept.,
 1945)**—Seeking former members—W.D. Prewitt, 80-
 65 NW Stoddard, Kansas City MO 64152.

USS Blackfish (SS-221)—Seeking crew members from
 1942-46—Joe Fitzgerald, 16-28 163rd St., Whitestone
 NY 11357.

USS Zellars (DD-777)—Seeking Robert White & Char-
 les Baumgardner—Marion Krawczyk, 3489 Dun-
 haven Rd., Dundalk MD 21222.

184th Inf. Co. I, (WWII)—Seeking former members—
 Ira Keeney, 521 N. 2nd St., Wahpeton ND 58075.

USS Merrick (AKA-97)—Seeking Joseph Valentino &
 Stanley Freeman—Ken Johnson, 3163 Linden Dr.,
 Anchorage AK 99502.

USS Haverfield (DE-393)—Seeking Tadlock & Kenn-
 eth Cook—Frank Dole, PO Box 38, Ingram TX
 78025.

584th SAW Bn., or 76th Fighter Control Sqdn.—Seeking
 former members—John Hunter, 6843 Lindsley Ave.,
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I kept taking compass bearings and tried to recognize different key terrain features in the darkness, still determined to snatch up the AK of the first Muj to get zapped if we got ambushed. Behind us was the glow of several parachute flares. We quickened our pace.

It was still dark when we recrossed the Pakistani border, again avoiding the frontier guards. Delta Nine and I bade farewell for the time being. Over tea after breakfast, I studied how my hands were shaking uncontrollably. Nothing had ever prepared me for being caught in a rocket barrage. Days later, I found out the area I had walked through had been liberally dosed with yellow rain over the last eight years.

About the Author: Mark R. Brown, a freelance reporter-photographer, is a Vietnam Era veteran who served three years in Germany in armor, armored cavalry and intelligence. He made his way into Afghanistan last May.

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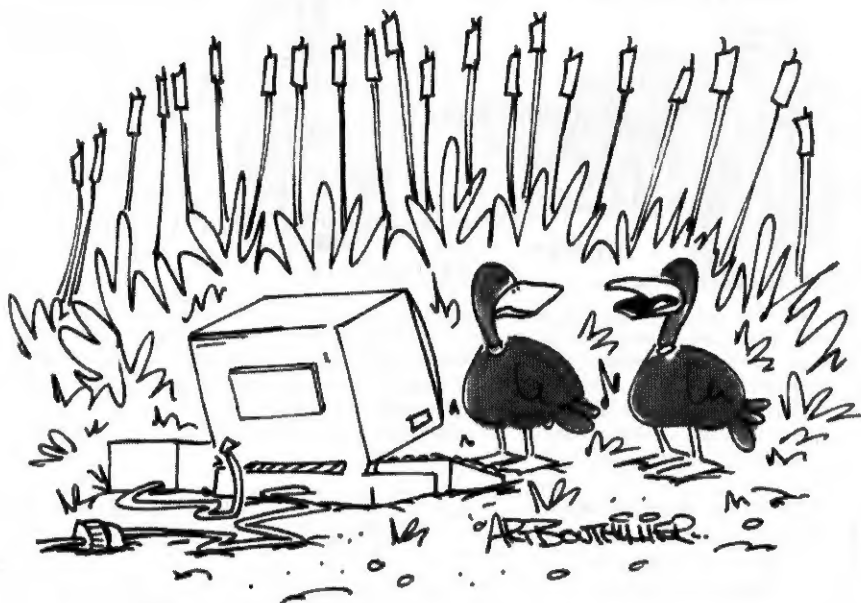


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"That shouldn't make you feel so bad. All the big baseball players get traded."

"I know. But I was traded for a glove."

It's a wonderful world . . .

"Yes, I think I might find you a few odd jobs to do," the housewife told the tramp. "Have you ever been offered work before?"

"Only once, Madam," he responded. "And aside from that I've met with nothing but kindness."

Keep counting, please

An on-the-road salesman stopped at a fancy hotel for the night and went to register.

"What are the rates?" he asked.

"A room on the first floor," said the clerk, "is \$50. On the second it's \$40, and on the third floor, \$30."

As the man shook his head and turned to leave, the clerk said, "Aren't you going to register? Don't you find our hotel attractive enough?"

"Oh," said the man, "it's attractive enough. It just isn't tall enough."

He has his principles

The rabbi told me has has very strict morals. He would rather not perform a wedding ceremony.

"Why? What has that got to do with morals?"

"My conscience will not let me take part in a game of chance."

Substitution

The vice president of a large corporation died suddenly, and a brash junior executive asked the president: "Do you suppose I could take his place?"

"It is fine with me," the president answered, "if you can arrange it with the undertaker."

Flunked

The little girl played at her first piano recital. She performed so well the audience called for an encore.

When she returned home, her father asked, "How did you do at the recital?"

"Oh," she said, "I thought I did all right, but the audience made me play it over."

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Bravery

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"I don't believe you ever had anyone brave come from Boston," challenged the Texan.

"Didn't you ever hear of Paul Revere?" asked the salesman.

"Paul Revere?" said the Texan. "Oh, yes. Isn't he the one who ran for help?"

Auction

One day Bill came away from a sale with a live parrot, "Now I wonder why I bought this stupid bird?" he muttered.

"Stupid?" said the parrot, "who's stupid? Who do you think was bidding against you?"



"Yes, I cry sometimes during the soopies, too, but everything is under control by the time Alice gets home from work."

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